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THE GUARDIAN

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scenery



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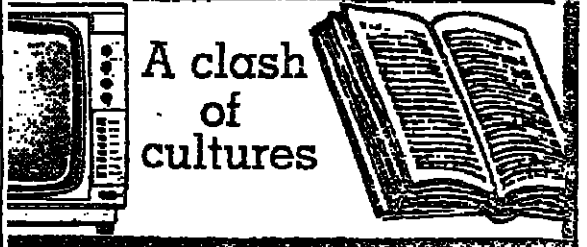
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SPORT Pages 13-16



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How men fall for the Iron Lady's charms

By James Naughtie,
Political Correspondent
IT was a bad day for the Prime Minister yesterday. Sir John Nott spoke of her use of "feminine charms" in the Cabinet. Mr. Nicholas Fairbairn told of her encounter with a drunken, lecherous guest at a Kirk reception in Edinburgh, and she was pressed by Mr. Ken Livingstone.

As days go, even in Downing Street, it was bizarre. But of all its surprises Mr. Fairbairn's tale of lust at the Palace of Holyroodhouse was the most startling.

It was delivered to MPs contemplating in a scandalous fashion the Sexual Offences Bill in the Commons, and not ready for the revelation that an unnamed prominent figure in Scottish public life had propositioned Mrs. Thatcher in a drunken fight of alcohol.

Fortunately for the honour of the Conservative Party, he was rejected in words faithfully recorded by Mr. Fairbairn. On being told that the propositioner had always fancied her, the Iron Lady responded: "Quite right. You have very good taste. But I just don't think you would make it at the moment."

The wine had proved too much, a revelation which had a little embarrassment in itself, because the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland at its annual blaze at Holyrood 40 years ago.

It can safely be stated that this was the first occasion on which the Commons had been given details of an attempted seduction of a Prime Minister of either sex, clumsy though it was, by a person who occupied grand office.

Mr. Fairbairn, who lives in a medieval castle, designs his own clothes, wears well and dabbles in politics, was seeking to use Mrs. Thatcher in his argument against Section 5 of the bill which makes it an offence for a man to solicit a woman for sexual purposes in a manner likely to cause her fear.

The admiral, he indicated, could have been arranged under the bill for his over-enthusiastic suggestions to the Prime Minister the implications being that this would have been unfair.

There was collateral evidence of her lure yesterday, provided by Sir John Nott, her former Defence Secretary, who told A Week in Politics on Channel 4: "All the time of course, she uses her feminine charms."

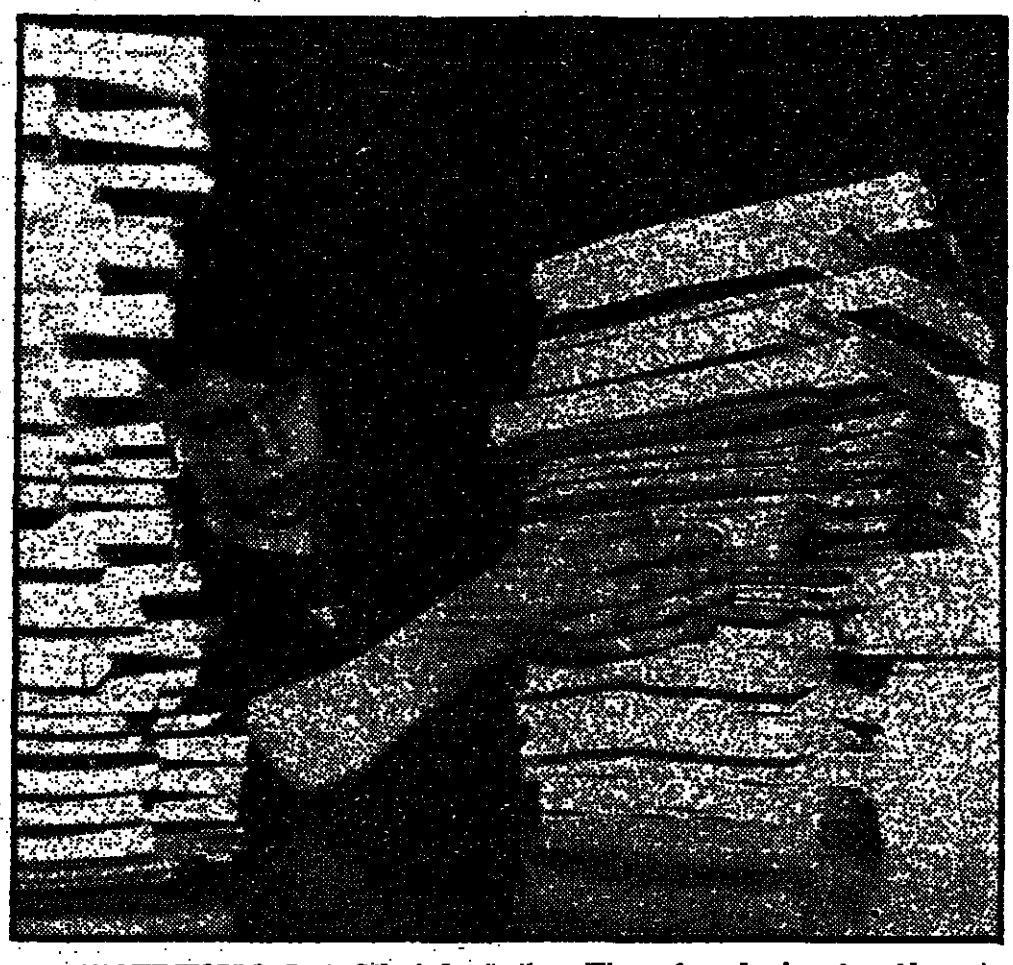
He said ruefully in the course of a profile of Mrs. Thatcher that her way of conducting business would not have been tolerated had she been, God forbid, a man.

"Mrs. Thatcher tends to arrive at her view by an intuitive process which men find difficult to understand," he said. Mr. James Prior, on the same programme, admitted that his mystification expressed itself in a series of shouting matches.

"My problem was that I generally did shout and say: 'No, I think you're absolutely wrong.' Of course, that's when the shouting match would start."

None of this, of course, shed light on the incident in Edinburgh, except perhaps to demonstrate that there are men who, given enough

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WAR OF THE WORDS: Part of the index to the millions of words given in evidence to the Sizewell B inquiry. The files are already several feet high. Picture by Frank Martin; Pit stoppage cannot justify PWRs, page 2

Deputies warn against pits closure demand

NCB agrees talks to set peace agenda

By John Ardill
and Malcolm Pithers
Leaders of the coal industry and the miners' union are to meet on Tuesday to draw up an agenda for talks on ending the pit strike.

The National Coal Board's chief spokesman, Mr. Michael Eaton, said yesterday that the board had responded "positively" to a letter from the National Union of Mineworkers and had agreed to the talks without preconditions.

But a new problem emerged for the NCB yesterday with a warning from the pit deputies' union, Nacods, that it would not accept the closure of all uneconomic pits.

Tuesday's talks were announced simultaneously by the two sides and Mr. Eaton said that a satisfactory outcome could lead to "real negotiations" as early as Wednesday.

The agreement came after more than 24 hours of uncertainty, with the NCB's president, Mr. Arthur Scargill, writing to the NCB to confirm that the union would not be insisting on preconditions to talks and NCB and Government leaders, including the Prime Minister, taking an uncompromising line on closing uneconomic pits.

The board's team at Tuesday's talks will be led not by the industrial relations director Mr. Ned Smith, who met the NUM general secretary, Mr. Peter Hain, on Monday, but by the board member for personnel, Mr. Merrick Spanton.

"I am not interested in victory or defeat or whether anyone is climbing down," said Mr. Eaton. "What I am interested in is the coal industry."

"If the negotiating teams can face the reality of the situation then this dispute can be over quite soon. I think both sides are determined to reach an agreement which will run up to the end of the miners' dispute."

The Nacods warning followed swiftly on Mrs. Thatcher's televised demand

that the NUM must accept that uneconomic pits would close.

Although Nacods would not specify what action it would take over closures, its threat must be regarded as serious. It reached agreement with the board over closure procedures in October, but can claim to have a strike mandate over reactions in the industry's capacity. Its members, without whom pits cannot legally operate, are balloting on the board's 5.2 per cent pay offer.

The general secretary, Mr. Peter McNestry, said: "If Margaret Thatcher wants to start talking about closing all

thing we cannot accept. We have never, ever agreed that with the coal board."

He said Mrs. Thatcher had "countermanded" an arrangement between Mr. Smith and the NUM. "She is out to destroy the NUM," he added. "It has become a political strike."

Strong reaction to Mrs. Thatcher's statement, he said, was coming from members in the working coalfields, where attitudes were noticeably changing. Stressing that the union had broken off negotiations with the NCB, he added: "We have given the board an ultimatum to get these talks off the ground and settle the dispute."

Mrs. Thatcher's statements also brought an accusation from the South Wales miners' leader, Mr. Emyr Williams, that she was trying to sabotage peace talks. A warning from the NUM vice-president, Mr. Mick McGahey, that the union would offer no written guarantee that it would discuss closures.

Mr. McGahey told a rally in Glasgow that the NUM was willing to negotiate without conditions but could accept no conditions in advance from the NCB. He added: "The Government is demanding blood but they are not having the blood of the miners."

Mr. John Henry, deputy leader of the Scottish TUC, said: "We wanted to get across to the Government the message that there is every possibility for a successful settlement of the strike this time."

Leaders of the NUM's white collar section, Coss, decided yesterday to defer discussion on a call from Nottingham area members for the section split from the union nationally. The section secretary, Mr. Trevor Bell, said it would not be discussed before the section conference in May.

The coal board said that another 196 strikers went back to work yesterday, and that over the week 30 NUM clerical grade members had abandoned the strike.

Next week



Britain's barefoot economists are convinced that mass unemployment is forcing the industrial self-reliance. In a major series Walter Schwarz looks at the grassroots of greening, starting on Monday

BELGRANO ALERT
The War Cabinet considered changing the Rules of Engagement to permit preemptive bombing strikes against Argentina's mainland airfields, but recoiled in the face of dubious legality. Agenda unveils further revelations surrounding the sinking of the Belgrano

Tuesday
LABOUR PAINS
If Helen Liddell becomes General Secretary her appointment would set a welcome trend in the Labour Party.

Wednesday
ANIMAL RIGHTS
Mary Midgley on beasts and beastliness in Body and Soul

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE

Austria	26 sch	Greece	100 dr
Belgium	8.50 fr	Italy	1,800 lire
Denmark	8.50 kr	Spain	170 pes
France	7.00 fr	Switzerland	5 fr
Germany	3.50 dm		

Botha promises blacks more say

From Patrick Laurence
in Johannesburg
President P. W. Botha yesterday promised the country's black majority more political influence, but gave no indication that apartheid policies would be fundamentally changed.

Mr. Botha announced his willingness to consider changing the laws underpinning South Africa's policy of separate development when he opened the country's first multi-racial Parliament, which gives Indians and Coloureds—but not blacks—a junior role in the government.

Mr. Botha said that the Government would negotiate property ownership for millions of blacks in townships near white cities, where blacks can now only rent or lease their homes. Such "urban blacks" should have some unspecified kind of political participation, and "negative and discriminatory aspects" of the pass laws limiting numbers of urban blacks should be eliminated.

He announced that the Government would set up an informal forum where black leaders could discuss changes, including political accommodation for blacks living outside their designated "homelands."

But as the forum will be unofficial, its recommendations will not be binding and its role will only be advisory.

Since the creation of the new three-chamber Parliament last year, Coloured and Indian MPs have made it clear that they expect President Botha to start dismantling apartheid, and to tackle the question of political rights for blacks.

While Mr. Botha did not commit himself irrevocably to the abolition or fundamental reshaping of apartheid, he did say that the government was reconsidering the contentious issue of citizenship.

Under present laws, blacks deemed to be citizens of the four "independent homelands" are deprived of South African nationality and citizenship. All other blacks have South African nationality—but are regarded as citizens of one of the country's six non-independent "homelands." Apart from limited municipal voting rights in black townships, they can only vote for the legislative assemblies in these "homelands."

Referring to a special Cabinet committee which has been considering the political position of blacks living outside their designated homelands, Mr. Botha said: "Decisions reached... indicate that clarity must be reached soon on the question of citizenship."

Mr. Botha did not elaborate, but his announcement follows speculation that some form of dual citizenship—is under consideration, under which blacks may share a common South African citizenship with whites at one level, while retaining or developing their "own identity" at another.

Analysts say that the speech could herald a significant shift.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Pay offer rejected

COUNCIL manual workers could join teachers in industrial action after rejecting a £3.70 offer. Back page

Israel leaves

ISRAEL is to go ahead next month with the first phase of its withdrawal from Lebanon, where fears of its future threaten the country's currency. Page 5

Trike 'delay'

SIR CLIVE Sinclair has deferred a decision on whether to invest £2 million on a second production line for his electric three-wheeler. Back page

Prestwick fear

THE rejection of a new cut-price transatlantic airline has raised doubts about the future of Prestwick. Page 18

UDR gaoling

A MEMBER of the Ulster Defence Regiment was gaolled for life for the murder of a Catholic. Page 3

Cold criticism

SOCIAL workers were criticised by police at inquests in Bristol after the deaths from hypothermia of two elderly women. Page 2

Chemical dangers

UNION Carbide received an internal report saying that there were dangerous problems at its West Virginia plant three months before the disaster at its Bhopal chemical plant. The Virginia problem had been rectified. Page 4

The weather

SUNNY intervals and rain or snow showers. Details, back page.

The Guardian

AGAIN yesterday some readers failed to receive their Guardian. This further loss of copies was brought about by the continuing disagreement involving NGA members in our London composing room. We apologise to everyone affected.

Lord Lane favoured appeals on leniency

By Malcolm Dean
The first attempt to give the prosecution the right of appeal against sentence was initiated by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, who wanted a much more radical scheme than the one lost by the Government in the Lords on Thursday.

Until the debate on the Prosecution Bill in the Lords, it had been commonly assumed that Mr. Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, was responsible for the scheme, which he announced to the annual Conservative Party Conference in 1983.

Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, scotched this myth when he admitted in the Lords—"perhaps indiscreetly, perhaps unconstitutionally"—that he himself had played no part in its introduction and pinned its origin on the Lord Chief Justice.

This caused confusion for the Lords, several of whom had checked with the Lord Chief Justice and been assured that he was against the Government's proposal. It now appears the reason for his opposition was that he would have preferred a more radical scheme.

The idea of allowing the prosecution the right of appeal was launched by the Lord Chief Justice at a private judges' dinner in the Mansion House in the summer of 1983. Lord Hailsham, who was present, spoke against the idea later in the evening.

The news leaked out through the columns of the Times, but the idea was attributed to Lord Hailsham. Lord Lane in a 10-line letter to the Times, corrected the attribution on July 22 1983. In fact it was I who made the suggestion, not Lord Hailsham.

The Government's proposal was more modest than Lord Lane's in two respects. First it said that a reference to the Court of Appeal should only be made if the Attorney General. The Government expected there would be only two or three a year.

The second difference was that under the Government's scheme the sentences would remain unaltered for the offenders in the particular cases reviewed. The Court of Appeal gestured that the Lord Chief would have been restricted to

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Nigeria wants Dikko

From Reuters
in Lagos
NIGERIA has asked Britain to extradite Umaru Dikko (right) the former transport minister who was a victim of a failed kidnap to face corruption charges. Mr. Wada Mada, the press secretary to Nigeria's leader, Major-General Mohammed Buhari, said yesterday that the request was handed to the British Government in London this week.

Mr. Dikko fled Nigeria when the military seized power just over a year ago. Last July he was seized outside his London house and later found drugged in a diplomatic crate at Stansted Airport, Essex.



Pope calls synod on council's revolution

From George Armstrong
in Rome
The Pope last night unexpectedly announced that he was calling an extraordinary synod of the world's Roman Catholic bishops to review the work of the Second Vatican Council, which ended 20 years ago.

The assembly would take place from November 25 to December 5.

The second council resulted in reforms which pushed the Roman Catholic Church into modern times. It approved major changes in liturgy, such as masses in the local language, and greatly advanced dialogue with non-Catholics and non-Christians.

The Pope was speaking at the end of Christmas Unity prayer week—himself a by-product of the Council—from the same altar, and on the same day when, 26 years ago, the late Pope John XXIII announced that he was convoking the Council which revolutionised much in the Roman Catholic Church.

The announcement was a surprise. It came only a few months after Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican's Doctrinal Office, criticised the Council for having encouraged "self-criticism which now has become self-destructive."

The cardinal's words are considered to have almost the same weight as the Pope's, and he went so far as to call for a restoration of pre-Council values. The cardinal said that which would not only be welcomed, but "is already under way."

One change brought about by the Council which immediately affected all practising Catholics, and irritated many, was putting the celebration of mass into the local vernacular, with the Latin mass permitted only on special occasions. Last year the Pope reinterpreted the Council's decision by formally making it easier for the Latin mass to be said at communion.

This was done even though the Vatican's poll, recently noted overwhelmingly in favour of keeping the mass in the local language.

The special synod, lasting only 12 days, will be too brief for more than the reading of prepared statements.



What are his chances of a happy retirement?

Almost half the people who die before they reach 75 do so as a result of heart disease. Yet the factors that influence this may start in the cradle. Or even earlier.

That's why the British Heart Foundation is funding research work into this and all other aspects of heart disease.

But being a charity we rely totally on your support. Send off the coupon today and find out how you can help beat Britain's biggest killer.

(Figures taken from official Government statistics for 1982: on deaths under 75 in Britain)

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Court rejects Owen case over 'unfair' coverage of SDP

By Malcolm Dean

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats, yesterday failed to get a High Court order which would have required the Broadcasting Complaints Commission to review his complaint that ITN and BBC television news programmes treat the SDP/Liberal Alliance unfairly.

The court ruled that the commission was wrong in believing that it had no jurisdiction to review Dr Owen's complaint. The judges upheld, however, a commission decision that even if it had jurisdiction, it would use its discretion and refuse to consider the complaint.

Lord Justice May, presiding, said the essence of Dr Owen's complaint was political. His objective was to achieve a change in editorial policy by the broadcasting authorities. This was not the type of relief the commission was empowered to grant.

It would have required the commission to express a view about a fundamental political issue—proportional representation—about which there were quite clearly different and strongly held views by the main political parties.

Dr Owen had complained that although the Alliance received only 2 per cent fewer votes than Labour in the last general election, it lost 10 per cent of the two main news programmes had shown that Conservative spokesmen received 70 per cent of the political coverage, Labour 25 per cent, and the Alliance an unfair and unjust 5 per cent.

Dr Owen, whose application was supported by the Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, is unlikely to appeal against the decision but instead use the judgment in action against the BBC and ITV.

Dr Owen said later that he was pleased with the case because, as the court had ruled on the commission as a paper tiger, there was an indication on the BBC and ITN to have the issue of balance changed in his judgment yesterday that this would be reversed.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has a statutory obligation to maintain balance but the BBC is only subject to a resolution on impartiality passed by its governors and appended to its licence, issued by the Home Secretary.

Lord Justice May said: "I have found this a difficult case to decide and my mind has changed more than once in the course of the argument."

He thought that Parliament never intended that the commission should deal with a policy complaint like Dr Owen's but he felt impelled by the Act's wording to rule that the commission had the power to adjudicate.

He rejected Dr Owen's application, however, because the discretion which Parliament had extended to the commission was as wide as it could be.

Mr Justice Taylor concurred, noting that commission hearings on Dr Owen's complaint would have had to be held in private and without representations from the Conservative and Labour parties.

There were several rational and defensible approaches by which political balance could be judged but no clear guidance about which the commission should choose. It could be votes cast, seats won, by-election results, or public opinion polls.

There was no order for costs.

Dr Owen: Commission a paper tiger

Dr Owen: Commission a paper tiger

Dr Owen: Commission a paper tiger

Tory critics warned off by Howe

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe yesterday warned dissenting Conservatives that they were putting at risk phase two of Mrs Thatcher's assault on British political attitudes by demanding policy changes for short-term gain.

The Foreign Secretary, in a lengthy and robust defence of Government economic and social policy to Cambridge University Conservatives, said that the Tories had marked out new common ground by applying policies with conviction, and they should not now be diverted.

"National unity is important, expanding the common ground is important, but neither can be pursued at the cost of failing to stake out the right common ground. Had we taken that approach, we would never have succeeded in challenging the status quo in 1979."

Sir Geoffrey said that there were still vested interests which were refusing to face reality. "That is the major cause of polarisation in our politics today."

In defending the Government's approach, which had brought many rewards and would now result in further "liberation" in the economy, Sir Geoffrey made thinly veiled criticism of Tory opponents of current policies, with a shaft clearly directed at Mr Edward Heath.

Debate on government objectives was too often stifled by the "presentation of differences in terms of simplistic slogans and ready-made political categories. We need less emphasis on personalities and personal grudges and more honest analysis of the alternatives for achieving our national objectives."

On economic policy, the defeat of inflation was still the primary objective. Although he lamented the level of unemployment, he made clear his view—shared by the Prime Minister and Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor—that a quick change of emphasis to new public investment programmes was not the answer.

"When we are convinced we have got it right we need to go on expounding the case in a way which broadens our support by responding to sincerely felt anxieties."

The Government had to consider criticism, but he saw little justification for most of the backbench dissent. It was not true that the Government was rigidly ideological.

The record in economic policy, industry, and trade union reform showed practical judgment as well as ideological determination. "A disposition to give overwhelming priority to consensus can too easily end up as a policy of inaction."

Mrs Thatcher had created new common ground by challenging established assumptions in industry, politics and society at large, and was now seeking to build on that success. Reforms based on deregulation in the economy and radical tax reform for individuals. But it could still all be lost.

"Even today, the risk remains that plausible deceit by the hard left could result in the return of a government which would undo all the gains so painfully won and bring disaster to our nation. A new common ground is not yet firmly established as to ensure that our governments will build upon it."

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Paul Hoyland and Malcolm Pithers find the mood of pitmen in Wales and Yorkshire still defiant

Strike stronghold stays resolute

THE mood of the 400 South Wales miners' delegates meeting in Porthcawl yesterday matched that of their holiday resort venue, surviving the winter but desperately looking forward to better days.

The lodge committee representatives from each of the 28 pits remained determined to abide by the unwritten rule that has kept them united throughout the dispute. "We all came out together and we'll all go back together," said one delegate. "It's as simple as that."

"If we went back the

strike would collapse," said one lodge committee representative. "We are very proud of the boys for giving everything to the strike. We will stick this out as long as it takes." He denied that the men were depressed or that they believed they were beaten. The talk was not of defeat but of securing an honourable settlement.

The issue of pit closures continues to stick in the throats of the South Wales men, who claim to have experienced more closures than any other region. A delegate said: "There's no point in going back to work if the board is going to press

ahead with its closure programme. I wouldn't like it if it was my pit. That's why we came out in the first place."

While it has not proved so simple in other areas, the South Wales leaders believe they have a duty to maintain what is undoubtedly the union's strongest bastion. Even in Yorkshire, thousands of men have returned to work but in the South Wales valleys: only 342 miners reported for duty yesterday according to the National Coal Board, less than 2 per cent of the 15,600-strong workforce.

No coal has been produced

in the region since the strike began and the union disputes the board's return-to-work figures, claiming that only 281 men reported for duty yesterday.

The South Wales men had put great faith in peace proposals put forward by church leaders but rejected by Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary. Now they pin their hopes on a break-through in next week's national talks. The South Wales miners' president, Mr Emlyn Williams, said that the executive would decide if the men would go back to work if the negotiations failed.

They were scathing about Mrs Thatcher's comments on television and almost universally said that it would be foolish for the Government to attempt to intimidate them.

One man said: "Mrs Thatcher will not be able to claim any victory here. We feel let down by our own men. If we could have all stood together, we would have had victory now."

Another said: "All they want is Arthur's head on a pole. Let's hope next Tuesday that the moderates on the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers find out exactly what they want to do to us."

There is a kind of somber acceptance that more men are going to return to work, albeit slowly, or that there has to be some movement in the union in the talks. However, the men's resolve has not softened.

One who had stood on a picket line all day yesterday said: "She might want Arthur's head but I'll tell you this, Arthur Scargill has been meeting and selling us short. They might have to shift but we will not be sold out."

The men said they felt that the real issue of the dispute, the closure of pits, was still being debated. The closure of pits, said with them, was still being debated. The closure of pits, said with them, was still being debated.

Another miner said: "People shouldn't think this strike is over yet. We have not stood back here for 10 months to lose everything and that alone will keep men going."

They accept, however, that families cannot keep going indefinitely. A few weeks ago a pit with one man working would have been a festive to men on the picket line but now they accept 50, 40, or 50 men at work with a resigned reluctance.

Mr Ian MacGregor, the coal board chairman, spoke to the workers' union while he was in Yorkshire yesterday. He told Mr Gerry Duggan, aged 27, and Mr Carl Ford, aged 26, underground workers at Bentley pit near Doncaster, that people who had been dismissed would not be reinstated after the strike.

This could be another stumbling block in negotiations. He also said that the board had no intention of closing pits in the Doncaster area.

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Frustrated miners refuse to submit

THERE is a change of mood among Yorkshire miners but it would be wrong to assume that they are not prepared to stay on strike.

Miners seemed frustrated and angry yesterday, about what was happening to them after Mr Michael Eton's announcement of a new week's talks.

They were scathing about Mrs Thatcher's comments on television and almost universally said that it would be foolish for the Government to attempt to intimidate them.

One man said: "Mrs Thatcher will not be able to claim any victory here. We feel let down by our own men. If we could have all stood together, we would have had victory now."

Another said: "All they want is Arthur's head on a pole. Let's hope next Tuesday that the moderates on the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers find out exactly what they want to do to us."

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Loft insulation grants cut after poor response

By John Hooper, Energy Correspondent

The public's failure to take up the money on offer for loft insulation has led the Government to cut back the sums available for it.

Discounting administration costs, the sum which is to be made available by the Government for loft insulation during 1985/86 will be £4 million less than during the current financial year. Even then, £7 million a quarter of the allocation for this coming year will be kept in reserve.

The basic insulation grant is £60, although as much as £95 is available to low income families. Until last summer grants were only available for premises with no insulation. The money available for loft insulation is allocated individually to local authorities.

The biggest cut of all will be in the London borough of Lambeth, where the amount available is to fall from £158,000 to £20,000—a drop of 87 per cent.

In spite of the Department of Energy's "Top up on top" campaign, which began shortly after the range of homes eligible for the scheme was extended, the Government estimated that only about £17.8 million of the £32 million on offer will be taken up this year.

But Mr Andrew Warren, director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, said yesterday: "The advertisement up to now has been principally concerned with tank jackets and draught-proofing, not loft insulation."

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Irish minister backs man who killed intruder

From Joe Joyce in Dublin

A senior Irish Cabinet minister yesterday gave his backing to a constituent who shot dead an intruder at his home the previous night.

Mr James Mitchell, Minister for Communications and a former Justice Minister, said that the shooting was almost inevitable in the light of Dublin's crime rate, particularly the incidence of housebreaking and burglary. He could not find it in his heart to fault anyone who tried to defend his home.

The shooting prompted several expressions of support for Mr Michael Balfie, the 32-year-old householder who shot the intruder. A community leader in the largely working class suburb of Ballyfermot, where the shooting took place, said that local sympathy was with Mr Balfie.

Mr Balfie, his wife, Helen, and their four children, were awoken at dawn by two masked intruders smashing down a door.

Mr Balfie went downstairs to confront them with his legally held shotgun.

According to neighbours, one of the intruders threatened Mr Balfie with an iron bar. Mr Balfie fired the single-barrelled shotgun, killing the man, but the shot hit the second intruder.

The wounded man was dragged from the house by his accomplice, who knocked on a door 100 yards away for help. As police arrived, he left his colleague dying on the ground. Detectives believe that the men's motive was robbery and that they may have thought the house was unoccupied.

The house was recently vacated by Mr Balfie's parents. Burglars had tried unsuccessfully to break into it last weekend.

A police spokesman said that the Director of Public Prosecutions would have to decide whether Mr Balfie should be charged in connection with the shooting.

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Threat to theatre museum

By Nicholas de Jongh, Arts Correspondent

BRITAIN'S first national theatre museum, being built in Covent Garden's flower market, may not open although it is scheduled to begin operations at the end of 1986.

The project has been threatened with cancellation twice before and only public protest and campaigns have saved it. But the Victoria and Albert Museum, which is responsible for the collection and houses it in cramped conditions, has now said that its 1985-86 grant of £9,453,000 (a 5.5 per cent increase) is insufficient to assemble and display the theatre collection.

A spokesman for the V and A said that 3 per cent of the 5.5 per cent increase was earmarked for refurbishment and conservation, leaving only 2 per cent for all other museum commitments. "Keepers of the museum are reluctant to have the theatre museum running at the V and A's expense," he said.

He said that the V and A building itself was in a dreadful state and a number of the galleries had had to be closed for repairs to roofs, drains or electricity. Within the museum there was a feeling that the money required to assemble and display the collection was insufficient.

It has already been agreed that the theatre museum will have to make admission charges but probably this would leave a financial loss.

Riverside Studios, the international arts centre in Hammersmith, West London, may close at the end of March. The Arts Council announced yesterday that the studios, which have sustained a series of administrative and financial crises, are to lose their £103,500 grant.

The electoral registration officer, Mr Jim Turner, said in his judgment that although the women would be entitled to register as voters on all other counts, because their residence was unlawful he had no alternative but to remove their names from the roll.

Protesters from the peace camp more recently formed outside the RAF base at Molesworth, Cambridgeshire, said it was scheduled to take place in the future. He succeeded in putting their names on the electoral register—so far, without a challenge.

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Labour councils to face political adverts inquiry

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent

The Government will shortly announce terms of reference for a committee of inquiry into what ministers describe as the "new corruption" in local government.

They amount to a list of Conservative complaints about practices in Labour-controlled authorities which were denounced as a "cancer" in local democracy by the Environment Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin, at the last Tory conference.

The committee will be asked to make an urgent study of council political advertising practices in Labour-controlled authorities which were denounced as a "cancer" in local democracy by the Environment Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin, at the last Tory conference.

Mr Jenkin kept up pressure on Labour rate-capped councils yesterday by laying down terms for a meeting in the week beginning February 4, but said he could not promise to postpone laying parliamentary Orders enforcing his rate-cap limits until after the talks.

Mr Jenkin invited individual councils to see him on Monday but the council side insisted the boycott on individual talks would not be broken.

Mr Jenkin is likely to lay the rate-cap Orders in the middle of next week for the four upper tier authorities of Merseyside, South Yorkshire, GLC and ILGA, which have statutory duty to set their rates by March 10.

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Greenham election ban

By Sarah Boseley

Thirteen women protesters from the camp outside Greenham Common air base have been struck off the electoral register after formal objections to their inclusion were lodged by a local residents' group.

The women, who claim that the makeshift tents outside the cruise missile base in Newbury, Berkshire, are their permanent home, despite repeated evictions by local authority bailiffs, succeeded in having their names included in the electoral roll last October.

But Mr Anthony Meyer, a resident of Newbury and chairman of the Newbury Residents' Association Against Greenham Encampments, objected.

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Inner-city task forces 'a cover for cuts'

By Alan Dunn

Civil Services task forces set up by the Government to tackle the problems of deprived inner cities were condemned yesterday as bureaucratic, inept, and a cover for government cuts in grant aid.

The charge came from Councillor Kevin Coombes, leader of Merseyside County Council, at a Liverpool meeting for leaders of five Labour authorities who are to have task forces later this year.

Councillor Coombes said that he spoke from Merseyside's experience as the only area in Britain to have a task force, set up after the Turkish riots in 1981.

After three hours of talks Councillor Tony Millwood, economic chairman of Hackney Council, London, said: "We will not willingly go along with the kind of deal Liverpool has had."

"We had a vague idea that the task forces were about galvanising government resources to tackle local problems, but we were amazed to hear that in terms of achievement very little has been done."

Representatives from Hackney, Manchester/Salford, Tyne and Wear, Islington, and the West Midlands heard Mr Coombes condemn the Merseyside task force, which labour force had risen from a handful to more than 40, including vacancies, as substituting government inactivity for local activity.

He catalogued what he called the task force's inability to tackle problems or to respond quickly to need.

"Delay frustrates local enterprise and initiative," said Mr Coombes. If the metropolitan councils were abolished as the Government planned, their strategic roles could be replaced by the task forces, which would be a defeat for the local electorate.

The lesson of the miners' strike for the Sizewell nuclear power inquiry is that the Central Electricity Generating Board is not as vulnerable to industrial action as its heavy reliance on coal might suggest, the inquiry was told this week.

In a closing submission for the Council for the Protection of Rural England on Thursday Mr John Taylor, QC, said that when the public hearing began two years ago everyone was conscious of the unspeakable "Sizewell factor," and the day it seemed to support the CEGB's case for a larger proportion of nuclear power generation in Britain.

But the strike had shown that by a combination of forward planning, stockpiling, switching to oil and gas, and technical ingenuity, the board could maintain supplies without resorting to the Government's emergency powers.

The stoppage had not, admittedly, been total. But the day's dispute split in the National Union of Mineworkers would make future strikes less disruptive. Strike action was not such a threat as to justify a loss of coal effectiveness, the council believed, was at best marginal.

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Effects of pit stoppage 'cannot justify PWR'

The environmental group, Friends of the Earth, claimed that the Government had misled the public by suggesting that the question of a safety licence for the proposed Sizewell B power station could be settled before the inquiry started.

The safety case would not be subject to a proper debate. The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate was neither as independent nor as rigorous as it should be in its scrutiny of the CEGB's first American-style pressurised water (PWR) project.

The CPRE based its case more on economic arguments. Mr Taylor suggested that the CEGB's own capital cost estimate of £7,000 million for Sizewell B still looked more probable than the CEGB's £1,147 million, which would lead to higher, not lower, electricity prices.

National oil and coal prices—the latter having fallen by 25 per cent over the past four years—had also weakened the CEGB's contention that Sizewell was needed to counter ever increasing fossil fuel costs. The council believed, was at best marginal.

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HOME NEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Election deposit rethink

GOVERNMENT sources confirmed yesterday that the plan to raise the election deposit for parliamentary candidates to £1,000 has been modified. The new deposit is now £500, and will only be forfeited when candidates poll less than 5 per cent of the vote.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, had asked for the £1,000 deposit but intense all-party negotiations over the past week have forced the concession.

The Representation of the People Bill is to be debated in its committee stage in the Commons on Tuesday and will now have to be modified. The present £150 deposit is forfeited if a candidate fails to win 12.5 per cent of votes cast.

Chief Constable of North Yorks



THE new chief constable of North Yorkshire will be Mr Peter Nobes (above), at present deputy chief constable of West Yorkshire.

Mr Nobes, age 49, succeeds Mr Kenneth Henshaw, who retires next month.

Newspapers to aid jobless

THE Prime Minister has welcomed an initiative by local newspapers in Surrey, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Somerset, Sussex and London to mount a campaign to help the unemployed. The newspapers are to publicise government schemes for job-creation, to highlight local problems and opportunities within the circulation areas of the papers.

Greenham hotel plan approved

COUNCILLORS at Newbury have approved plans for a 52-bedroom hotel, next to the Greenham Common base in Berkshire, despite their expressing concern that the hotel would be too noisy and potentially dangerous.

Residential development around the base is prohibited, but hotels are not. The hotel will be built by Fine Line close to the western end of the air base runway, at a cost of £2 million.

Morecambe leaves over £500,000

ERIC Morecambe left an estate valued at more than £500,000, according to his will published yesterday. The comedian, who died last May aged 58, left an estate valued at £517,205 gross, £452,592 net.

He left £16,666 each to his children, Gary, Gill, Steven, and his residue to his wife, Joan. Probate has been granted to Mrs Morecambe.

Chess series halted again

ANOTHER postponement halted the world chess series in Moscow yesterday. The Hall of Columns had to be prepared for a meeting today in connection with the forthcoming Soviet elections.

Andrei Karpov, leading 5-1, and Gary Kasparov will now play their 46th game of the championship match on Monday. The series has already lasted four months.

Industry's guilty men named

Andrew Moncur reports on a case of espionage from 200 years ago

THE defectors who robbed England of its lead in the industrial revolution—and helped a German rival to get off the ground—have been rumoured, 200 years after the event.

Their industrial espionage exposed the secrets of Richard Arkwright's water-powered cotton spinning mill, a world leader in the late 18th century. It is now clear that at least four Englishmen have a lot to answer for.

Their part in the affair has been revealed by research which overturns a version of history long cherished by the Germans.

They have always believed that Johann Bruegelmann, known as the father of German industry, came to England and gained for himself Arkwright's secrets. The English inventor had set up his patented machinery at Cromford, between Derby and Macclesfield, in 1771.

Mr Christopher Charlton, secretary of the Arkwright

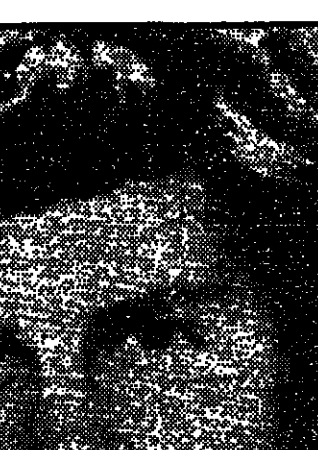
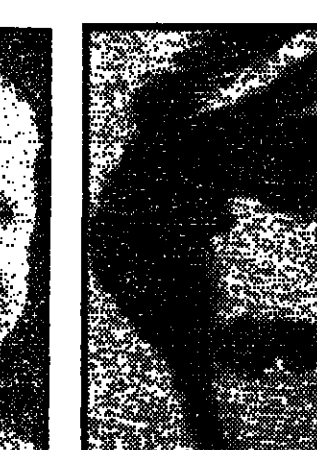
Soldier who wanted more done to combat violence shot father of 11

UDR murderer is gaoled for life

From Paul Johnson in Belfast

A private in the Ulster Defence Regiment was gaoled for life yesterday after he had admitted murdering a Roman Catholic father of 11.

Geoffrey Edwards, aged 26, also pleaded guilty to 15 other offences, including six attempted murders, when he appeared in Belfast Crown Court.



During the hearing yesterday it was said that Edwards, whose address was given as Drumad Barracks, County Armagh, had spent seven years in the regiment. During that time he had seen at least 15 of his friends and associates murdered by terrorists and many more mutilated and injured.

Defence counsel said that Edwards came to the conclusion that not enough was being done to combat violence and so he was moved to do something himself.

Peter Corrigan, a 47-year-old Sinn Féin election worker, was shot dead in October 1982 as he made his way to a labour exchange a short distance from his home in Armagh.

Edwards also pleaded guilty to an attempt on the life of Seamus Grew, an Irish National Liberation Army member, at his home in Armagh in September 1982.

Shots were fired into the Grew house after a late night knock at the door. Mr Grew escaped unhurt. Three months later he and a companion, Roddy Carroll, also a member of the INLA, were shot dead by police.

Edwards and Carroll were unarmoured. Early last year an RUC officer was cleared of murdering Grew after the judge said he was satisfied that the constable, a member of a selected squad trained in anti-terrorist duties, believed he had been fired upon and that his life was in danger.

Two other attempted murders attributed to Edwards involved Catholics who in separate incidents were shot from passing cars. The other three attempted killings involved a booby-trapped car bomb which went off in March 1983, injuring two men and a six-year-old child.

Sentencing Edwards, Mr Justice Murray, said that such a catalogue of crime was fright-

ening in itself, but it was increased in gravity because Edwards was a member of the UDR. It had been his duty to protect the public from terrorists but he had inflicted the horrors of terrorism on his fellow men.

"It is of vital importance that the public should be able to have confidence in the integrity of the security forces and you have grossly betrayed that confidence," added the judge.

Other charges included unlawful possession of firearms, hijacking a car, and causing an explosion.

A 16-year-old youth has appeared in court in Northern Ireland accused of murdering a police officer. The youth was charged with the murder of a police officer in 1981, when he was 13 years old.

The youth has also been charged with possessing two rifles, collecting information about the movements of a member of the RUC, and belonging to a proscribed organisation, Sinn Féin, the youth wing of the IRA.

The youth was remanded in custody to appear before Belfast magistrates on Monday.

Edwards, who was arrested in December 1983, told police that he wanted to get the matter sorted out because it had been preying on his mind. However, he refused to tell detectives of the other people involved or the location of weapons, because he said it was more than his life was worth.

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School-leavers 'lack motivation to work'

By Andrew Moncur, Education Staff

Youth unemployment was not only the state of the economy but also by the attitude of school-leavers, according to the leader of the Government's employment and training initiative, Lord Young.

Too many were emerging from 11 years of compulsory education without a single qualification that employers would accept, he said. Too often they were demotivated and lacked the personal qualities required.

Lord Young, Minister Without Portfolio and former chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, was speaking at the annual conference of the Society of Education Officers in London yesterday.

He said there could be no worse start to adult life than unemployment. "It must therefore be a priority to create the conditions in which young people can get the maximum out of life and put the maximum into it."

"I believe our failure to gear education and training sufficiently towards the requirements of employment is a major obstacle in the path of enterprise."

Britain had to recognise the objective of making young people competent for work. Our foreign competitors have recognised the link between investment in education and a competitive economy.

Lord Young also criticised the failure to assess the skills that they required in employees and make them known.

"We have to recognise that preparation for work is a worthy, respectable, and above all

New man on Falklands maintains hard line

By John Ezard

The Government has chosen a new civil Commissioner of the Falkland Islands whose views on sovereignty are just as hard-line as those of Sir Rex Hunt, his predecessor, it emerged last night.

Mr Gordon Jewkes, who takes over in September, was asked in his first interview about prospects for talks with Argentina. "There can be no question of sovereignty being discussed," he replied.

Speaking on the BBC External Services programme, Calling the Falklands, he said that he was in favour of talks to normalise commercial relations with Argentina. "But unless Argentina is prepared to come to the negotiating table and not raise the question of sovereignty, I don't think we are going to get very far. But we must try."

Mr Jewkes was at pains to indicate during the interview that this view was his own. He recalled that during the 1982 conflict he had often been asked in his post as British consul-general in Chicago, to discuss the issue on local television and radio.

Sovereignty had been a strong issue then. Like many other people, I don't suppose I had thought very much about it. But the more I read, the more it was borne in on me that it was not a question which could be resolved by force. It is important that under a democratic government Argentina should also have a right to self-determination and a democratic government.

The interview he presented himself as a diplomat with not only the right hobbles—walking and boating—for the post, but with the right background in commerce and export promotion for a period when British policy emphasises switches from military fortification to economic development.

He said he had not applied for the job and had felt "a little surprised and very honoured" to be offered it. He confirmed press reports that he had been interviewed by the Prime Minister before the final decision was announced.

'Low pay' walkout halts zip factory

By Michael Morris

PRODUCTION at a Japanese-owned zip fastener company at Runcorn, Cheshire, which has been beset from strikes for nearly 10 years, has been halted by a pay dispute.

The mainly female 260-strong workforce at YKK Fasteners is campaigning under the slogan "We Make Zips They Pay Us Buttons".

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Police criticise social workers at hypothermia victims' inquests

Social workers are preparing reports on the deaths of two elderly women in Bristol from hypothermia after police criticism yesterday at inquests.

MPs back bill to protect women from kerb-crawlers

By Alan Travis

Kerb-crawlers will be outlawed from Britain's streets by the summer under the Sexual Offences Bill, which was given an unopposed second reading in the Commons yesterday.

The bill, which has government backing, will create three new offences—kerb-crawling, persistently soliciting women for prostitution, and soliciting women for sexual purposes in a manner likely to cause fear.

It also increases the maximum penalty for attempted rape from seven years to life imprisonment and that for a decent assault on a female to 10 years. At the moment the maximum penalty is five years for assaulting a girl aged under 13 and two years for other cases.

There will be fines of up to £400 for kerb-crawling and for persistently soliciting a woman in the street. A man who persistently solicits a woman for sexual purposes in a manner likely to cause fear may receive a fine of up to £2,000. Only magistrates will be able to try the new offences.

The bill, which will apply only to England and Wales, is sponsored by Miss Janet Fookes, Tory MP for Plymouth Drake.

It was intolerable that kerb-crawlers had made parts of British cities no-go areas for women who were afraid to go out alone. A modern law was needed to replace the medieval broadsheet of the peace laws used by the police.

She hoped that women "would be prepared to give evidence themselves and not rely on agent provocateur action by the police. One is not looking to find prosecutions for all, but a few solitary examples would have a deterrent effect."

Mr Clive Soley, Labour home affairs spokesman, said he did not oppose the bill but had several anxieties about it, including the possibility that it

Police criticise social workers at hypothermia victims' inquests

Social workers are preparing reports on the deaths of two elderly women in Bristol from hypothermia after police criticism yesterday at inquests.

Appeal on 'race slur'

A secretary, fighting a legal battle to prove that her former boss acted unlawfully by calling her a "wog," won the right yesterday to take her case to the Court of Appeal.

Farmers warn of 'direct action' over milk quotas

By Paul Heyland

Farmers who sell milk directly to the public or make cheese yesterday warned the Government that they would take direct action unless EEC quotas introduced last year to curb Community spending were relaxed.

Most of the 3,000 farmers who run their own milk rounds have been told to cut production or the feared over-production, and 100 of them met in Taunton yesterday to demand talks with Mr Michael Jopling, the farm minister.

One ministry official said: "The situation really is designed to reduce the production of surplus milk going into butter and cheese manufacture for which there is no market, not to hit these producers who do not contribute to the surpluses in any way."

Mr Edwin White, from Wells, Somerset, who started his milk business in 1983, said he will owe £50,000 in fines by the end of the quota year in March, even though he has already cut his overall milk production by more than 9 per cent.

The farmers voted unanimously that if they failed to get full satisfaction they would have "no option but to consider direct action to remedy this grossly unfair situation."

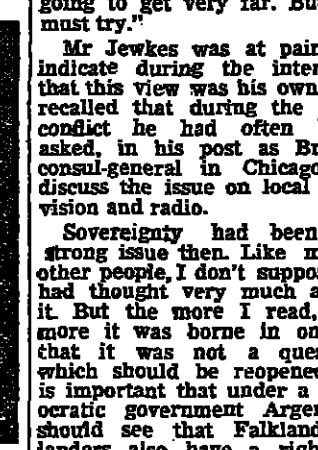
They set a deadline of the end of March, when the first quota year finishes.

Quotas are forcing the sale of herds and making farm businesses unprofitable because of continuing overheads. The only recourse for a farmer who feels unfairly treated is an appeal to a dairy tribunal against the farm's particular quota level.

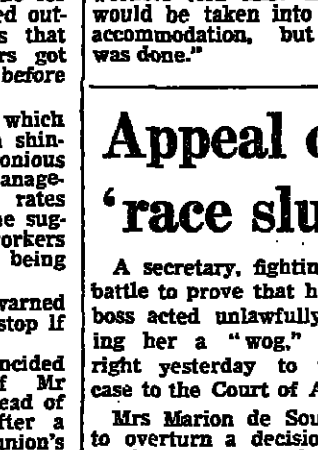
The value of the farm would be substantially reduced because of the low quota attached and the Hughes family would be ruined.

"It is a strain not knowing what is going to happen to us," said Mrs Hughes, aged 27. "The bank had been backing us because we had a steady income. They are waiting for the tribunal's decision and we are not very hopeful."

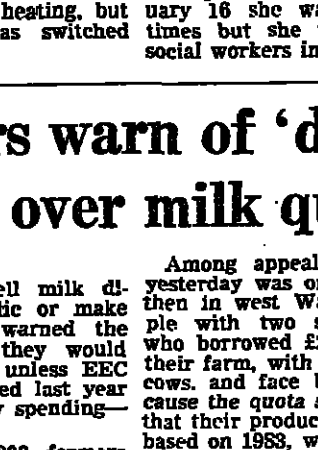
In a paper sent to MPs the Farmers' Action Group of Dyfed, a county heavily dependent on the dairy industry, said: "The social implications of the administration of the quota system are profound and are likely to decide the shape of the rural communities in the west of the country for many years to come."



Lord Young: Education 'not geared to employment'



Mrs Marion de Souza: hopes to overturn a decision of the employment appeal tribunal



Mrs Hughes: quota would be based on the farmer who was here before us

Grants rise 'let-down' for crafts

By Dennis Barker

The Crafts Council yesterday expressed disappointment over its 3 per cent increase in Government grants for next year. The council, which had asked for a 15 per cent rise, will get £1,530,000.

But it said it was grateful that the Government had given it an additional one-off grant of £55,000 to expand work in the regions by helping the regional arts association while abolishing the council's regional department.

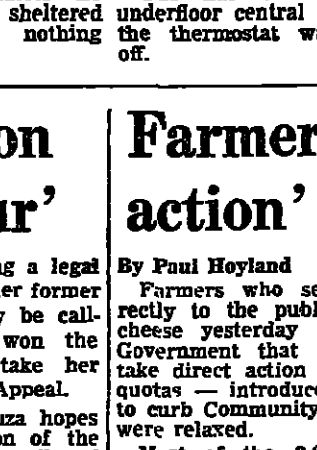
"We understand the Government's constraints," said Dr David Duggan, the director of the council's London headquarters, "but it is an increase of £250,000, which is what we were asking for, was an inordinate demand."

The council, which promotes craft products, will give much more money in the coming year to selected regions, such as the Southwest, which will get a 15 per cent increase — from £22,000 to £25,000.

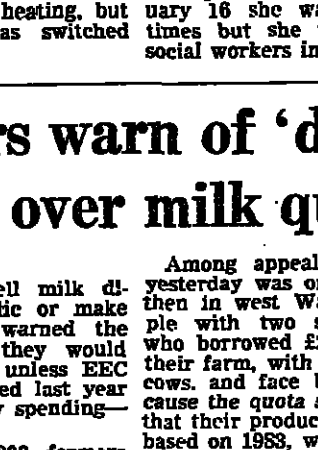
Spending on taking the council's exhibitions round the country, currently £4,000 a year, will be increased to £20,000. Spending on bringing regional exhibitions into the council's London headquarters will be increased from £8,000 to £15,000.

But direct grants for individual projects will be cut, and the council has told the Arts Minister, Lord Gower, that it wants to shed responsibility for conservations crafts (such as old houses and churches), on which it is spending £23,000 in the current year.

The council will also cut its grant to the Covent Garden Crafts Centre from £80,000 to £80,000.



Mrs Marion de Souza: hopes to overturn a decision of the employment appeal tribunal



Mrs Hughes: quota would be based on the farmer who was here before us



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OVERSEAS NEWS

Date and place of negotiations expected to be announced

Soviet Union to make arms talks declaration

Moscow: The Soviet Foreign Ministry is to hold a news conference this evening on the forthcoming Soviet-US arms control talks.

The ministry said its chief spokesman, Mr. Vladimir Lomeiko, would give the conference. It gave no further details.

The timing suggested that a simultaneous announcement would be made in Washington, which is eight hours behind Moscow time.

The two Superpowers agreed at talks in Geneva on January 7 and 8 to announce the time and place of the new arms negotiations within a month.

The last time the Soviet Foreign Ministry called an evening news conference there was a simultaneous announcement of the holding of the Geneva meeting between the Foreign Minister, Mr. Gromyko, and the US Secretary of State, Mr. Shultz.

On Thursday, the Politburo discussed the organisation of the Kremlin's delegation to the arms talks. However, in the United States, the chief US negotiator for the talks, Mr. Alexander Haig, denounced the Soviet Union.

According to Tass, the Politburo adopted "an appropriate decision... including on organisational questions with regard to the Soviet delegation to the talks."

Mr. Karpelman denounced the Soviet Union in an article in which he said the Soviet Union was "governed by a political and military elite engaged in a deliberate programme to intimidate and frighten the world."

Writing in the February issue of the anti-defamation League bulletin, Mr. Karpelman said the Soviet values and our security. But we share the same globe. We must learn to live "together." The article was based on a speech delivered

Gromyko Jun. in alert

Stockholm: Professor Anatoly Gromyko, son of the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Andrei Gromyko, has told a seminar that it is vital for us to do away with the race before it does away with us.

"Parity makes it possible to stop the arms race," Gromyko said in a lecture on Thursday at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute headquarters.

As a first step, agreement could be reached on a mutual freeze on nuclear weapons of the Soviet Union and the United States, with the other nuclear powers following suit," he said.

"The experience of recent decades shows that more weapons does not mean greater security. Genuine security can only be achieved and strengthened on a basis of equality and equal security," Mr. Gromyko said in the lecture.

There was general agreement, however, that President Reagan's alarm was just the latest attempt to soften up congressional and public opinion in the increasingly forlorn hope of obtaining the votes necessary for the \$14 million

needed by the CIA to support the Contras in Nicaragua this year.

That figure is itself a 50 per cent compromise. Its prospects have weakened in the recent days with statements by key congressional figures, notably Senator Richard Lugar, the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, that it will probably fail to clear the Senate.

The President's warning about increased terrorism in the Western hemisphere, notably Latin American lobbyists here because the CIA-backed Contras stand accused of savage excesses inside their own country. Moderate Republicans and Democrats, who believed

that the Sandinistas were breaching international law and should be kept under continuing US pressure to leave their neighbours alone, seem now to agree that a covert programme which is no longer as much as American interests as much as Nicaraguans.

The search, therefore, is on for other means of applying pressure, on the assumption that the President will not get his \$14 million. Senator Lugar has already announced his intention to hold a wide-ranging series of hearings this spring on the nature and direction of US foreign policy, in a search for a new consensus which has eluded Americans for a decade.

With President Alfonsín away on an official visit to the United States, the Government reacted slowly to the New Statesman's report, even though it attracted considerable attention in the local press.

In a statement released on Thursday night, the Foreign Ministry said that the report was "designed to jeopardise relations between Chile and Argentina" just as the Senate was about to debate the treaty settling the two countries' quarrel over three islands in the Beagle Channel.

The jury also found that the article defamed Mr. Sharon by implying that he intended the Palestinians to massacre the Jewish people.

Then the jury settled down to examine the key legal issue: did "actual malice" exist? Judge Abraham Sofaer, who presided over the trial, painstakingly explained the law to the four women and two men on the jury.

In the end the jurors decided unanimously that Time's writers and editors must have believed that their story was true.

In a sense both sides won, and both sides lost. Mr. Sharon claimed a "moral victory" and he did, indeed,

Gaol term for neo-Nazi leaders

FRANKFURT: A Frankfurt court yesterday convicted the neo-Nazi leader, Michael Kuehnemann (below), of distributing banned extremist propaganda and sentenced him to three years and four months in gaol.

The 29-year-old former West German army lieutenant — a self-proclaimed successor to Adolf Hitler — was extradited from France last October to stand trial.

The court convicted Kuehnemann and his aide, Arndt Heine, aged 27, of producing and distributing illegal propaganda for a right-wing extremist group called the Action Front National Socialist-National Activists.

The group has been banned by the Interior Ministry for advocating violence and promoting Nazi ideology. Marx was sentenced to two years and six months in prison.

Kuehnemann stood at attention and shouted "Resistance" when the sentence was read in a courtroom jammed with his rightwing supporters wearing black leather jackets.

Lawyers for both contended that they broke no laws by advocating a lifting of the ban on Hitler's Nazi Party.

But the judge rejected the argument, and said there was no legal way that they could pursue their goal of restoring the party in West Germany.

Kuehnemann and Marx said that they would appeal against the verdicts and sentences.

Both have been in custody since before the trial began in mid-November.

Anna Tomford: During his trial, Kuehnemann said his organisation wanted to create a political climate in West Germany that would enable the formation of a Nazi party.

In his final statement, he warned the court against the possible negative consequences of his conviction. "You will have to consider whether it is better to have desperate people planting bombs or politicians like me who try to tread the path of legality."

Despite the evident over-estimation of his own importance, Kuehnemann's warning cannot be dismissed out of hand, according to security sources.

Meanwhile, Austria's Socialist Chancellor, Mr. Fred Sinowatz, yesterday publicly censured his Deputy Minister, Mr. Friedrich Frischenschlager, saying his handling of the return to Austria of Nazi war criminal Walter Reder was a "grave political mistake."

He said he dissociated himself from the affair. He had asked the minister for a report on the Reder affair and "I do not want to discuss what happened for the present."

The minister, a member of the rightwing Freedom Party, the junior partner in the Socialist-led coalition, also came under fire yesterday for personally welcoming the former SS major on his arrival, and there were calls for his resignation.

Within 48 hours of its release the film was banned by the mayor of Versailles, Mr. Andre Damien, who wishes to avert a serious breach of the peace in his town, and is the subject of court orders which two Roman Catholic associations are seeking to obtain to have the film banned throughout France.

Even the preview of the film in Versailles was interrupted on Tuesday when militants from the local Catholic Families Association burst into the cinema and made off with one of the film's reels.

Mr. Godard, a French-born Protestant, cannot understand what the fuss is about. He said that he never intended to strike a blow at the Catholic religion. Although unconcerned about claims from religious groups that the film is blasphemous and shocking, Mr. Godard is nonetheless perturbed at what he sees as the rise of intolerance and deep-seated anxiety in France.

"There is no more dialogue in France and that's a shame, because France is a country of words," he said. The dialogue in the film has been described as "harmless" even by Mr. Godard's standards.

"I am who I am because I exist," says the four-year-old Jesus in the film. "Keep quiet and get in the car," Joseph answers.

For Mr. Godard, controversy is nothing new. In 1963, his film about French soldiers and the Algerian war prompted some political leaders to demand his deportation from France.

"I am used to being attacked," Mr. Godard said. "I know I've done my job when I get strong reactions."

Using his Kluge Klan tactics, never gets anyone very far," he said. "Black answers, black with jazz: I answer with my films."

The military regime, headed by General Mejia Victores, who took power in a coup in August 1983, has promised to allow Guatemalans freely to choose a civilian president for the first time in more than 30 years.

The last freely-elected civilian president, Jacobo Arbenz, was overthrown in a CIA-sponsored coup in 1954.

Government officials have lately been dropping heavy hints that there might not be sufficient funds to finance an election next July, even though this would occur barely half way through the financial year.

There is a widespread consensus inside the Guatemalan officer corps that it is time to put a civilian in the presidential palace, if only to secure a resumption of US military aid.

Meanwhile, the principal architect of the Guatemalan army's counterinsurgency strategy, Colonel Mario Paz, is to be transferred to another post. The move has heightened concern that the military may be planning to interfere with the planned elections.

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\$1.9bn in arms aid likely for Israelis

From John Goshko in Washington

The Administration, after resolving objections by the Office of Management and Budget to increased military aid for Israel, plans to announce for approximately \$1.9 billion in security assistance for the Jewish state next year.

Officials said on Thursday that the figure was approved by the White House after the Secretary of State, Mr. Shultz, reached an agreement with the OMB director, Mr. David Stockman, on a formula circumventing the Budget Office's desire to freeze Israeli military aid at the present fiscal year level of \$1.4 billion, as part of an economic drive.

The formal aid request originally submitted by Israel totalled about \$4 billion: \$2.1 billion in military assistance and \$1.9 billion in economic aid, plus an additional \$200 million to help stem Israel's economic crisis.

Israeli officials said that Israel last month submitted a document outlining possible economic and military aid requirements totalling \$12 billion over the next three years.

The officials stressed, however, that those portions of the document dealing with the years after 1986 did not constitute a formal request, but were "preliminary long-range projections of anticipated future needs and almost surely will be subject to revision" depending on how the Israel Government fares in controlling the country's economic crisis.

Despite the enormous size of these actual and anticipated requests, Israeli supporters say "they have encouraged a long-term commitment on Capitol Hill for significant trims in aid to Israel. But, the officials said, the Israeli requests initially had "a very negative impact" at OMB.

OMB's argument that an increase for Israel would prompt demands for similar treatment by other interest groups was opposed by an internal administration coalition of Mr. Shultz, the Defense Secretary, Mr. Weinberger, and the National Security Affairs Adviser, Mr. Robert McFarlane.

"The belief that the increase is necessary to maintain Israel's pre-eminent military position in the Middle East and to help combat the economic crisis."

These measures, coupled with the normal adjustments that Congress makes in its annual budgetary figures from one fiscal year to the next, were expected to provide sufficient funds to cover the increase, Washington Post.

Lebanon's foreign exchanges close as currency slides

close as currency slides

Israel says withdrawal goes ahead

Tel Aviv: Israel said yesterday that the first phase of its troop withdrawal in Lebanon will go ahead next month, despite concern that it might cause new factional fighting.

The UN envoy, Mr. Brian Urquhart, held talks with the Defense Minister, Mr. Rabin, yesterday, and officials said afterwards that the Israelis planned to stick to their timetable.

"We are definitely pulling out as scheduled," one official said. Mr. Urquhart, the UN under-secretary-general for special political affairs, left later for Beirut.

In Lebanon, bankers closed foreign exchange markets yesterday as the once-resilient Lebanese pound threatened to collapse, symbolising widespread despair about the nation's future.

Israel and Lebanon on Thursday broke off talks on security arrangements at the border village of Naqura after Israeli troops withdrew from southern Lebanon, but Mr. Urquhart said yesterday he would continue his efforts to arrange an orderly withdrawal.

Israel has dismantled front line positions in the Sidon area and says it will complete the first phase of a three-stage withdrawal by February 18. Many of Lebanon's factions have militiamen in the area, and recent clashes and the attempt to kill the Sunni Muslim leader, Mustafa Badar, on Monday, have intensified fears of a battle for territorial control once the Israelis leave.

Mr. Urquhart said that he had discussed how to get the Naqura talks going again during a 30-minute meeting with Mr. Rabin.

He added: "I can't give you a date now for when or if the talks will be held next. It's a complicated process, but we'll keep on trying." He said he

could not guarantee the talks would resume before February 18.

"My job is to facilitate a (withdrawal) process which is orderly and in which there is not renewed trouble."

Beirut dealers stopped trading within 30 minutes of opening after the pound dropped from Thursday's close of 11 to the dollar to 12.25 — a 10 per cent decline.

It was the first time the market had closed since last February, when Muslim militia seized West Beirut from the army in heavy fighting.

Analysts blamed the accelerating plunge on political and economic uncertainty as well as speculation and growing investor panic. The Finance Minister, Mr. Camille Chamoun, has forecast a "catastrophe" if the Government failed to act.

With inflation over 30 per cent a year and unemployment at least 40 per cent, there have been warnings of total upheaval unless sectarian leaders settle their differences. Beirut's streets are the scene of a rising crime wave by armed gangs thought to come from impoverished suburbs as well as from the city's shelling, and sporadic battles between militias.

Lebanon and Israel, which have held 14 sessions of talks on troops withdrawals disagree over the rules of the Lebanese army. UN forces, and Israeli militia in policing southern Lebanon.

In the south, convoys of trucks clogged mountain roads yesterday as they hauled military equipment back from the front line to Israel.

Mr. Rabin, who visits Washington next week, is expected to refer to the cost of the withdrawal to support Israel's request for more military aid. — Reuters/AP.

Unity at Muslim funeral

Sidon, Lebanon: Five thousand members of Sidon's Muslim and Christian communities gathered yesterday to attend the funeral of a Muslim leader's daughter who was killed by a car bomb attack on the leader's home.

Mourners shouted anti-Israeli slogans as Nafsa Saad, aged 12, was buried in the presence of Sidon's Maronite Christian Archbishop, Bechara Elie, the Sunni Muslim Mufti, Sheikh Mohammed Jaleddine, and the Shiite Sheikh Hassan Subayti.

Halim Fayyad, the governor of south Lebanon, represented President Gemayel.

The girl's father, Mustafa Saad, an opponent of Israel's presence in south Lebanon, is in hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. He and his wife were also hurt in the attack.

Some mourners showed their determination to avoid sectarian conflict when the Israelis leave by shouting such slogans as "No Muslim, no Christian, but national unity," as they marched through Sidon.

An anti-Israeli protest strike shut down the city and many nearby Muslim and Christian villages throughout the day. — Reuters.



Border wait: Clutching small parcels, Lebanese civilians wait at the Bate el Chuf crossing point in front of an Israeli tank for permission to cross into southern Lebanon

Mosque renovations spark unholy row

From Kathryn Davies in Cairo

Renovating work on Egypt's most frequented mosque, which might place valuable medieval relics at risk, has been halted by a row between the country's biggest building contractor and Egypt's official antiquities committee.

The permanent Scientific Committee for Islamic and Coptic Monuments, whose 25 members have submitted their resignations to the Prime Minister, accuse Arab Contractors, a multi-million-pound company with strong links to the ruling National Democratic Party, of beginning unauthorised and damaging renovations on the Hussein Mosque here.

The main building of the mosque, where President Mubarak and his ministers pray on Islamic holy days, was constructed in the nineteenth century in a European neo-Gothic style with Turkish minarets. But it is on a very ancient site, where Muslims believe the head of Hussein, grandson of the Prophet and son of Ali, the fourth and last of the orthodox Caliphs, is buried.

Conservationists fear that two valuable medieval relics — a green gate from the Fatimid period (the Fatimids founded Cairo in AD 969) and an Ayyubid minaret constructed in AD 1237 — are now at risk of the orthodox Caliphs, is buried.

Conservationists fear that two valuable medieval relics — a green gate from the Fatimid period (the Fatimids founded Cairo in AD 969) and an Ayyubid minaret constructed in AD 1237 — are now at risk of the orthodox Caliphs, is buried.

No-one disputes that repairs must be made to the basic structure of the building and its surrounding walls to deal with existing damage, but the committee does not agree with Arab Contractors' methods.

After more than a year of argument, the company earlier this week went ahead and demolished the dome and part of the walls, prompting the chairman of the monuments committee, Dr. Ahmed Kadir, and all the other members, to resign in protest.

Arab Contractors deny they have acted without the authorisation of Dr. Kadir and his fellow archaeologists, architects, and conservationists.

A senior company official, Mr. Hassan Nassef, said that Arab Contractors offered their engineering consultancy services for the mosque renovations free of charge. The work

Five on Kuwait sabotage charges

KUWAIT: Five Iranians stand trial today, accused of sabotage believed here to be linked to efforts by Iran to export revolutionary Islamic fundamentalism to the rest of the Gulf.

The face charges of sabotage and belonging to a group seeking to overthrow Kuwait's social and political system by force or any other means, officials say.

The five, described as two tailors, a barber, a van driver, and a man running a medical-sanitary business, are alleged to have committed offences between 1980, a year after the revolution that toppled Iran's Shah, and February 1984.

Officials have not said when the accused were arrested, nor whether the case is linked to blasts in December, 1983, which hit the US and French embassies and other targets in Kuwait, killing six people and wounding more than 80.

In Tehran, Iran's inner war cabinet spokesman said yesterday that his Government would not be satisfied with anything less than the downfall of President Saddam Hussein, of Iraq, as a condition for ending the Gulf war.

Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani told worshippers at a prayer meeting in Tehran that nothing could persuade Iran to accept less.

Mr. Rafsanjani referred to last week's meeting of an Arab League committee, in which representatives of Kuwait, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, North Yemen, and Tunisia expressed solidarity with Iraq and called on Iran to listen to peace appeals. — Reuters.

Refugee surge expected in Sudan

By Nick Cater and agencies

A senior Sudanese refugee official yesterday warned that conditions in eastern Sudan could deteriorate rapidly, as up to 400,000 Tigrans come across the border in the next few months.

Mr. Ahmed Karadawi, the deputy commissioner for refugees, said: "The worst is yet to come. We have been told that if food does not go into Tigré, the people will come out. Only a trickle of food is getting in."

Food supplies for refugee camps in Sudan are all but exhausted. With thousands of people arriving every day the plight of new refugees was worsening, he said.

Mr. Karadawi's warning was echoed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Mr. Poul Hartling said that the number of new arrivals had increased by 40,000 in less than two weeks, "and there is no sign that the influx, averaging 3,000 a day, is abating."

The total now stands at more than 210,000, according to Mr. Hartling. A source close to his office said it was feared the number may soar to more than a half million before the end of the spring.

"All our emergency funds are dried up and we are urgently awaiting further contributions from donor countries," said a UNHCR spokesman. The emergency was likely to need \$100 million before the crisis eased, he added.

In Ethiopia, meanwhile, unseasonal rain yesterday brought new health hazards for Ethiopian refugees clustered in some 200 camps.

Mr. Berhane Gizaw, an official of Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission said the rain in all 14 of the country's administrative regions could threaten famine victims with potentially fatal illnesses.

It was the first rain since September, when freak downpours hit the area around the capital, destroying crops and killing at least 50 starving people.

At the same time, thousands of refugees from Chad and starving Sudanese have converged on a small reception camp in northern Sudan.

UNHCR officials said 17,000 Chadians and Sudanese seeking food had gathered at a camp being set up at Azerna, near the Chadian border, to accommodate 10,000 drought victims.

They said half of them had crossed from Chad and the rest were Sudanese from the province of Northern Darfur where the Khartoum Government fears the drought may reduce the normal harvest by half.

Vietnamese offensive escalates as UN chief visits Thailand

From Nicholas Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

The UN Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, arrived here yesterday on a South-East Asian tour, as Vietnamese troops launched new attacks on Kampuchean resistance guerrillas near the Thai border.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar will discuss regional issues notably Kampuchea, before flying via Vientiane, to Hanoi. He has not revealed whether he is carrying any specific proposals for any new initiative.

His visit, which coincides with the biggest Vietnamese dry season offensive against Kampuchean resistance groups since it invaded six years ago, is not seen as coming at a particularly auspicious moment for any new initiative.

On the eve of Mr. Perez de Cuellar's arrival, Vietnamese artillery bombarded the camp of Dongrak, the last remaining civilian camp controlled by the non-Communist Khmer People's Liberation Front, which has been the brunt of Hanoi's offensive.

Up to 14 people were reported killed and 30 wounded in the shelling, which sent the camp's 22,000 inhabitants fleeing to the Thai border.

Vietnam has now attacked all the KPNLF's civilian and military bases except the small guerrilla base of Santor Changan, near Dongrak, which is occupied by 100 guerrillas and is seen as a probable target for the Vietnamese.

A number of KPNLF military and civilian leaders have been attempting to reorganise their guerrillas since the fall of their headquarters at Amphol earlier this month, but it was not known whether they were in Dongrak at the time of the attack.

Fighting has also been reported in recent days in the vicinity of Nong Samet, the biggest of the KPNLF's civilian camps, overrun by the Vietnamese on Christmas Day.

The main focus of the conflict, however, has shifted towards the main Khmer Rouge mountain stronghold of Phnom Malai, 18 miles south of the Thai border. Vietnam is reported by the Thai military and resistance to have assembled infantry, tanks, and artillery in preparation for a big attack.



Mr. Perez de Cuellar: meeting Thai leaders

Emergency extended in Noumea

PARIS: The National Assembly yesterday extended the state of emergency in the Pacific island of New Caledonia until June 30.

But the vote was overshadowed by an unexpected offer from Diet Ukeiwe, president of the island's conservative local government and a senator in Paris, to meet the independence leader, Mr. Jean-Marie Tjibaou, for talks.

Mr. Ukeiwe had said an arrival here earlier this week that he could not meet Mr. Tjibaou, also in Paris, described him as "a rebel" against France.

Speaking to the Senate, Mr. Ukeiwe castigated the Government's decision to extend the state of emergency, saying it discriminated against loyalist New Caledonians and favoured the separatists.

But he then noted that "a representative" — Mr. Tjibaou — of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) "has said he is a man of peace and dialogue and I invite him to the negotiating table."

Mr. Tjibaou said later that he would accept any exchanges, "no matter where, no matter when," if they dealt with how the island group would achieve independence.

In Noumea, Mr. Pisan's high commission office announced that six government public works officials were beaten up and injured yesterday by FLNKS supporters armed with clubs. — AP.

Indian spy suspect seeks bail

New Delhi: The personal assistant to the Prime Minister's former principal secretary — one of 15 people arrested in India's spy scandal — pleaded his innocence and asked for bail yesterday.

The Press Trust of India said Mr. T. N. Kher made the bail application before a metropolitan magistrate, Bharat Bhushan, and that it would be heard on Monday.

PTI quoted the application as saying Mr. Kher had been falsely implicated and had been unable to meet his family or lawyers since his arrest. The principal secretary, Mr. P. C. Alexander, resigned after the scandal broke last week.

Mr. Bhushan also remanded in custody until Monday a personal assistant to President Singh's deputy secretary, Ashok Kumar, who was arrested five days ago, the agency said.

A Delhi magistrate yesterday finished taking the statements of three prosecution witnesses, the agency said. Two prosecution witnesses from the office of the Prime Minister, Mr. Gandhi, made statements in camera to a magistrate on Thursday, PTI said.

The agency also quoted police in Boko, in the eastern state of Bihar, as saying that a top secret reference book with military communication codes was missing from a police wireless office.

Three office employees had been suspended and investigations were still going on, it said. It did not say if the inquiry was linked to the spy scandal. — Reuters/AP.

Hawke backs US on nuclear warship

From Ian Templeton in Wellington

The Government's policy of banning nuclear-powered warships has provoked the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Bob Hawke, to intervene.

Mr. Hawke has sent a "personal" letter to the New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr. David Lange, urging him to allow the proposed visit of an American warship to go ahead in March.

Mr. Hawke is clearly concerned that New Zealand's anti-nuclear stand will demolish the Anzus Alliance, which has been the cornerstone of the defence policy of both countries for more than 30 years.

Mr. Lange is visiting the New Zealand-administered Tokelau Islands, but the acting prime minister, Mr. Geoffrey Palmer, has confirmed here that the letter had been received from Mr. Hawke and a reply would be sent.

Mr. Hawke's intervention runs counter to earlier assurances from the Australian Foreign Minister, Mr. Bill Hayden, that Australia would not act as a "messenger boy" for the US Administration.

It is clear that Mr. Hawke's letter has not been received with any enthusiasm here. Earlier public support for the Government in denying the US visits by nuclear warships has been eroded by signs that the Anzus alliance will crumble if the Americans are told their warships are no longer welcome.

The influential Christchurch Press said recently that the country was blundering out of Anzus. For the sake of a gesture towards the concept of a nuclear-free South Pacific, the Government was prepared to wreck the country's defence policies without offering an alternative.

New Zealand seeks to enjoy full protection from the alliance while washing its hands of having nuclear weapons in its coastal waters, the newspaper said.

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THE OPERA HOUSE MANCHESTER
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GRASSROOTS



Medals will be worn... at last year's CND die-in at Barrow; picture by Don McPhee.

Although civil disobedience has always been a feature of the peace movement in this country, it has been a very small feature — the one rocky outcrop in the gentle plains of peaceful protest. Now it is breaking out all over the place — with peace camps, trespass, sit-downs, and street protest, from Faslane to Whitehall to Sculthorpe. Non-Violent Direct Action (NVDA), is a considered challenge to Government policy and it will not go away.

The new NVDA has its roots in Gandhi's India, the US people's opposition to the Vietnam War, and the American Civil Rights Movement. It owes its inspiration to Greenham and its rationale to Martin Luther King. "The purpose of direct action," he wrote in his Letter From A Birmingham Jail, "is to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. We are not the creators of the tensions. We merely bring it into the open where it can be seen and dealt with."

Suddenly ordinary people are despairing of changing Government policy by legal protest. More, they are seeing for the first time the links between poverty, the arms race, East-West tension, and the plight of Central America.

The move to direct action is not unlike that other mathematical concept, the Catastrophe Theory. This holds that if a structure is sufficiently stressed it will, quite suddenly and dramatically, change its shape and characteristics. It applies to metal beams, camel's backs, and human tolerance. Fear can change to anger, inertia to action.

Is that what is happening here? Are enough people willing to risk prison to influence the Government? If the unemployed were to see the connection between high technology, nuclear power, defence spending, and jobs, could that be the critical factor, the last straw which changes the structure of society and modifies the threat to peace? Susan Thomas, who last Saturday reviewed the successes and failures of CND, now talks to people who have gone to gaol for the cause.

Why they break the law in order to keep the peace

Wire cutters at Greenham.

'Documents we have taken inside the Greenham base show we are still preventing nuclear alert exercises. They also show plans for biological warfare.'

SARAH is a Greenham woman, a mother of five, a nurse, former JP, and the camp's longest serving "peace prisoner". When we talked she had just finished another month in Holloway. Small and dark haired, she has sombre blue eyes and a glowing inner conviction. She has been at Greenham since March '83, and in prison nine times, serving a total of 116 days.

"It took me a long time to act. I was in Canada during Vietnam, I did nothing then, only rallied against it, justifying my inaction by the need to look after my family. But on Mother's Day '82 I vowed I would join the camp, and I went, in '83, just as the authorities were trying to destroy it."

"I was convinced that I wouldn't be able to stand it physically for more than two days — just sleeping on the ground under a piece of plastic. I was reminded of the Russian dissidents who say that when the cold bites then your commitment is tested."

"I am at Greenham because I believe that at the last I will be asked 'What did you do that you knew you had to do?' and 'What did you do that the Pope or Cardinal Hume told you to do?'"

"Greenham is effective even if the press chooses to ignore us. We believe we have delayed the deployment of cruise missiles outside the wire by a year. In January '84, Jane's Defence Weekly reported Reagan and Helmsline were concerned about the impact of protesters at the camp and that they couldn't carry out full exercises until the protest had died down. And documents we have taken from inside the base show we are still preventing 'nuclear alert' exercises."

"They also show plans for chemical and biological warfare. We offered the information to the US and Russian embassies, both of whom refused it, and to the press. Only the Observer took it. There must be some sort of D notice on Greenham."

"The twice-daily evictions have stirred us into action. It is as if they had disturbed sleeping bees. Women have been in the silo area, 40 women have been on a launch missile, and we succeeded in

stalling the launcher 200 yards from the gate so that it had to be towed in to the base. But none of this gets into the papers."

"After the Yellow Gate was cleared, the press tried to convince people we were all gone. Home Office action stopped a contingent of women from Spain, but Danish women came and we got word to the Dutch that we were still there."

"I am very concerned about the police — especially the MoD police. I am sure they have psychological preparation before an event. They are white faced, tense, eyes glazed, fists beating against their thighs, very aggressive."

"It is terribly frightening to wake up and find yourself surrounded by police, tramping at the edges of the plastic. Kicking at your belongings, knowing that they do not hesitate to hit or kick women as they are being dragged out of the way."

"I don't hate them. It makes me weep to see what is happening to their humanity. They are cooperating with evil. What do they tell their wives and children when they get home? That they have been helping to deploy weapons which will kill them and destroy their planet?"

"Here we have a force which is getting its orders from a foreign power. That is the real question of sovereignty today."

"I am optimistic. Greenham is effective, CND is getting down to it, and for an increasing number of people the peace movement is not so much a campaign as a way of life."



Anaesthetist Ray Towey.

'Pentonville breaks every rule of primary health care. It houses the poor, the sick, the rejects, yet no one puts you down...'

RAY TOWEY is a consultant anaesthetist at a big London teaching hospital. A gentle, grey man, he wears a suit

and tie at all times. In Pentonville the other prisoners often mistake him for the governor. He has now served three terms for his civil disobedience.

Six years ago Ray left his post as Senior Registrar at St Thomas's to work as a doctor with the Volunteer Missionary Movement. His experience of Africa taught him about poverty, corruption, and the desperate need for primary health workers.

"Then in March '82 I came back to England and thought 'everyone had gone mad. It is always traumatic to return to your own culture from the Third World, but to come back and find we were about to go to war with Argentina, shooting and bombing people and sending 300 health workers to patch them up. I couldn't believe it."

"And Christian friends were telling me that we had to 'sort them out'. We didn't seem to have a peace theology. Then the Pope came and said we could no longer use war as a means of settling disputes."

"It was the turning point. With Catholic Peace Action I joined a group fasting and praying for three days outside Westminster Cathedral and observed the group who split their blood and ashes on the steps of the MoD. It was extraordinarily moving."

"Then in April '83 I took part in an action at the MoD. We were chained to a large wooden cross and to the pillars in the entrance porch — we prayed and did an Easter Liturgy. He appeared in '83, just before Christmas '83, refused to be bound over to keep the peace, and was sent to gaol for seven days."

"Pentonville is known as the Doctors' Prison. It breaks every rule of primary health care. His constant conditions there appeared in the British Medical Journal."

"You are locked in a room with your own urine and faeces from 4 pm till 8 am, wash your eating utensils and collect drinking water from the same small room in which a lavatory and urinal are in use, where prisoners are sleeping out pots and the whole place reeks of urine and faeces. The risk of cross infection is very high."

"Pentonville houses the poor, the sick, the rejects of society, yet no one ever puts you down there. I have seen the most extraordinary acts of kindness both between prisoners and between prisoners and staff. No whenever I see one of those vanishing prisoners I want to wave."

Though afraid of being sent back, he will continue his civil disobedience because, he says, his actions as a

practising Christian force others to reconsider their beliefs and actions.

"We could argue the moral theology for ten years and get nowhere. NVDA forces the issue, just as it did for Gandhi and Martin Luther King. The prime purpose of NVDA is conversion, to bear witness to gospel values which transcend human laws."

"If the four million Catholics in this country went to Greenham on a National Day of Peace we wouldn't need civil disobedience."

'I didn't tell the other prisoners why I was in, but one of the prison officers was interested...'

TIM is 18, unemployed, "passionately fond of natural history and really keen to get a job in a zoo". Quiet, shy, very much a country lad, he opted out of A levels and came to London to do voluntary work in 1983. Eighteen months later, after a chance meeting on a Whitehall sit-down, he joined Christian CND.

Since then he has been arrested four times, for sitting down in Whitehall and Parliament Square in protest against cruise (2nd fine) and a CND council member, he was charged with Defacement of the Ministry of Defence. It was the latter, "Behaviour Likely to Cause a Breach of the Peace", which earned him seven days in a remand home.

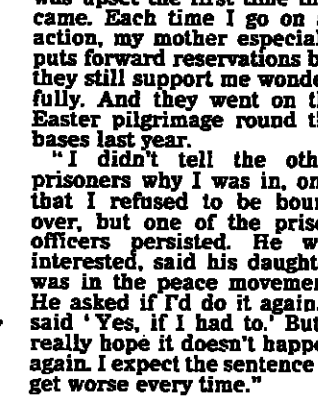
"It was very symbolic. We were chained to each other and to the MoD and we had a lighted candle. I was dreadfully scared before hand, nearly didn't do it. In the event the police were quite kind. They let us keep the candle alight in the black Marlin and though they put it in a tiny lockbox, it was not for very long but the person next to me was so violent, the wall bulged so badly that I thought he'd break through."

"My cell mate, a member of the Ulster Volunteer Defence Force, had been in the Marlin and seemed an inappropriate pairing — he really looked after me, told me what to do, what not, got

lids for our water jugs, that sort of thing."

"My parents were very upset to see me there and I was upset the first time they came. Each time I go on an action, my mother especially puts forward reservations but they still support me wonderfully. And they went on the Easter pilgrimage round the bases last year."

"I didn't tell the other prisoners why I was in, only that I refused to be bound over, but one of the prison officers persisted. He was interested, said his daughter was in the peace movement. He asked if I'd do it again. I said 'Yes, if I had to. But I really hope it doesn't happen again. I expect the sentence to get worse every time.'"



Pat Arrowsmith.

'She arrested a Royal Observer Corps member in his bunker for Behaviour Likely To Cause A Breach Of The Peace. The charge didn't stick.'

PAT ARROWSMITH — pacifist, poet, socialist, artist, activist — has been arrested four times since the fifties. A member of the Committee of 100, organising secretary of the first Aldermaston March, and still a CND council member, he has seen it all and been a supporter of direct action from the start.

"In the early days a lot of my energy went into campaigns for minor industrial actions at nuclear installations, industrial cities, and armaments firms."

"We had taken stoppages — the construction workers at Sellafield (Missisville) and at Bristol Siddle (now British Aerospace) where we produced blueprints for a conversion to peaceful production. A maverick CND group paid for me to work on Merseyside helping set up workers committees. They organised a

1000-strong one-day stoppage over the US resumption of nuclear testing."

"In some ways industrial direct action is more possible now because there is no longer the division between CND and the left-wing groups. And there are workplace CND groups and a new trade union worker. On the other hand, with unemployment, people are less keen to risk their jobs through industrial action."

"Somehow we have to get more active working class involvement and that's difficult — maybe it's a question of education, more likely it's a question of the media they use — the Sun, the Express — they don't read the Guardian and I fear very few read the Morning Star. They are only exposed to the right wing capitalist press."

"I think we should be campaigning with the armed forces, giving them information about nuclear weapons — after all, they're the people who are going to drop the things and a lot only joined for economic reasons. I don't think we should put pressure on them though — in any case it would make us liable to charges under the Incitement to Disaffection Act."

Now working as an editor with Amnesty International, she still regularly takes direct actions, often with grim humour. Last year she made her first civil arrest — one Royce Observer Corps member in his ROC bunker. "I arrested him for Behaviour Likely To Cause A Breach Of The Peace, and Breach Of The Peace, and Breach Of The Peace," she said.

Her latest collection of poems, *Thin Ice* (CND 45p), is filled with humorous or optimistic. In "Windows", she wrote: "I have seen shutters, boarded windows, eyes glaze over, don't want to look at blinding truth... At point of penetration, break in, break down, annihilation, we stretch Sellotape across the rent whitewashed screens."

"But I actually think things seem more hopeful these days. We've made great gains. We've never had such support from the Labour Party, there is the amazing success of the peace camps, the new strength of the women's movement, and now this widespread commitment to direct action."

"I do believe we could win the campaign tomorrow if we had a general strike. There is an effective form of direct action that the withdrawal of labour."

"Probably the biggest threat to the peace movement is some sort of limited arms agreement. After all, it was

the Partial Test Ban Treaty which nearly killed the movement last time."

'I have always been such a law abiding person, very conforming... She is now serving two months.'

IN MANY WAYS, apart from the size of her family, Pat Fulham is typical of the new grassroots support. Forty-six, a mother of seven, and a member of Pax Christi — the International Catholic Peace Movement — she was, until two years ago, a quiet housewife who ran the church bookstall and fostered children for the local authority. Then she felt "called to civil disobedience" and began a series of actions which have led to arrest on 20 occasions, charges on ten, and 73 days' imprisonment.

Mr. Fulham and her friends were amazed when they realised that I was committed to civil disobedience — divine obedience. I had always been such a law-abiding person, very conforming, never walked on the grass, that sort of thing."

She is serving two consecutive months in prison, one for refusing to be bound over after locking all the gates of BNFL Capenhurst, and the other for entering the USAF base at Burtonwood and celebrating a dawn liturgy for Pentecost.

The authorities were hysterical about her presence. We were strip-searched on the base and then spent a very unpleasant 36 hours in the police cell at Warrington."

Although she denies damaging the fence (instead using an existing hole to gain access), there were eight prosecution witnesses to say otherwise, candles and crosses used, the site were not produced in court, and she was not allowed to present the liturgy sheets as evidence that the action was a religious statement.

Before her hearing she wrote: "I certainly expect to spend more and longer periods in prison. I feel some anxiety about a return to Styal where there is quite a lot of violence between prisoners. At night after locking up the dormitories staff go off duty."

"On my first night a number of girls decided to punish another. My real horror came in being unable to stop it. My vain attempts only resulted in my lip being (accidentally) split. I wish I could choose where to go." On January 3 she was sent back to Styal. She will be there until February 27.

My actual charge for concealing and giving birth to your child is a snip at £40,000...

In the event of a child prodigy, I should expect 25 per cent of the gross

Dear Sir or Madam, I should like to apply for the post of surrogate mother to your child. I am 31 and the mother of one child — just as well since one of us should know what we're getting into. First, I should like to establish my expenses. I shall require four maternity dresses, two expanding waist trousers, two shirts, five bras, four pairs of flat shoes, and various lights of the sun. Total... £200

Unless you wish to collect your child naked and unwashed it will require a starter pack of toiletries, a couple of sleeping suits, and a pack of small-size nappies... about £50

I think we should consider the princely maternity grant of £25 as a perk of the job, but to set against your bill you may allow my saving of some £500 of excessive alcohol and spirit consumption. Against this I must advise you to set aside say £500 as an emergency fund to pay for any cravings I may develop for foie gras, caviare, etc. etc.

My charges for the duration of the pregnancy are as follows: getting up in the night to pee, each time £5 x 200 times... £1,000

being sick in the morning for three months, each £10... £300

getting fat... £1,000

being treated strangely by men who find pregnant women sexy... £1,500

being treated strangely by men who don't find pregnant women sexy... £1,500

having to lie flat on my back on the floor in the company of six other fat women singing the Queen's hymns, the Queen's men, etc, once a week for six weeks... £600

having to smile and look serene like Princess Di... £500

having to wait an hour to see a doctor who knows less about it than I do once a month, then once a fortnight, then once a week... £500

having to answer impertinent questions by ditto... £200

treated like one of many old cows by ditto... £400

Against these charges you may set the benefits: being treated very nicely by women friends... £50

giving birth to a posy boy getting paid for it... £40

being given a seat on a crowded bus (once)... £50p

My charges for the labour are as follows:

For every hour... £200

for every time someone yells "push!" at me when I am bloody well pushing... £50

for every time a young nurse who needs a bit of practice tries to push me pelthelaine when I don't want it... £25

for every time the old midwife pops out of the room for a tea break when I've changed my mind and do want it... £50

for my husband's costs: cigarettes for the duration £2 per hour; drinks after £20; phone calls to relations £25; sympathy pains and nausea £200.

Now we come to the optional charges:

for every ounce of overweight for one week after the birth... £50

for every vet's mark... £20

for varicose veins... £200

for soggy breasts... £1,000

for floppy stomach... £1,000

for any stitches, per stitch £50

for resultant disinclination to repeat the process with anyone including my husband... £1,000

I assume you will insure against any possible claims for compensation I suggest we consult a specialist and establish a sliding scale of charges starting with my anaemia and rising to perpetual fever and tragic death in childbirth. I assume also you will pay my NI contributions and establish a pension scheme. I have registered myself as a starter self-employed business and hope to obtain a grant from the EEC, though I may have to move to Consett to obtain some MSC funding.

After the delivery I expect to deliver to you at once, and any failure on your part will invoke the penalty clause of £500 a day and £5,000 a night. If you wish to return the child when it is around two and starting to get interesting, I will consider a new contract. In the event of a child prodigy with earnings in excess of £10,000 a year, I should expect 25 per cent of the gross.

I hope these proposals suit you. My actual charge for conceiving and giving birth to your child is a snip at £40,000. You may rely on my absolute discretion — I shall confide only in my dearest friends and the nice young man from the Star... Yours sincerely, Amelia Cuckoo.

Mark Bourne on the problems of understanding — never mind answering — the government's questionnaire for landlords

With fetching female tenants, you can always be sure of the rent

"THE gas fire's a bit dicey," Frank tells me. Right, call in the Gas Board.

Next time I call, there's all these red labels. Dangerous Appliances. Not only in Frank's flat, but Carl's next door. Both flat fires are now disconnected.

"Two fires vented to a common flue — very hazardous," says the gas supervisor. Could really do with two new fires. And the flue's a builder's job. I suppose that's what they call the pleasures of being a landlord. He adds with a sympathetic grin.

It's clear the work could go the wrong side of £500. But the flats are only let at £16 a week each, including rates, insurance, water, and sewerage. 42 per cent of privately rented accommodation is said to be in "substantial disrepair". I'm not surprised. Nor, it seems, is the Department of the Environment.

The management of privately owned blocks of flats. Much of the 27-page questionnaire sent to landlords, or their agents, concerns "sinking funds", funds which are held in reserve for major maintenance, repairs or renewal — expenditures expected to be necessary from time to time."

Some of the questions look a trifle byzantine. "Would the introduction of legislation to provide that sinking funds attach to the reversionary interest in the flat and do not belong to the long leaseholder or freeholder be an advantage or a disadvantage in the management of blocks of flats?"

It's since it seems that tenants could be contributing towards any sinking fund, best ask them.

I go round. I walk straight into a hanging bra. Empty. Pat's locked in the shower.

Carl's away in hospital after a bike prang. And Meirwen's

surry, but she doesn't quite understand. However, there is a leak in the WC; thanks for asking. Tells you after the cup of coffee. Sweeten, you up. When you do take down the bathroom panelling, it's only the plastic connector. 30p. No sinking fund needed for this one — though think how a plumber could gull you.

But on low rents, it's hard to see where sinking funds could come from, whether from landlord or tenant. And rents are low because wages are low: £16 a week rent is a £40 a 242 a week waitress or a £40 a week dogdams attendant.

That's when they are working. In winter, the council will have to foot the rent. And the first question they ask: "Has the flat a registered 'fair rent'?"

A fair rent is not at all the same thing as the market rent. Fair rents are fixed by the Rent's Officer as if there's no shortage of accommodation. But there always is. In

the extreme case, a London flat might have a fair rent of £30 a week. But the market rent could be £200 a week. So fair rents, while helping both tenant and public purse, can leave the landlord out of pocket if a big repair bill comes in.

Under the Housing Act, the council can compel a landlord to maintain his flats properly. But the Acts are blunted by the fact that landlords are not to leave for major repairs, like chimney rebuilding, how does the council house him — as it is legally obliged to. The council has waiting lists of its own.

So the whole system staggers on, unless the state both tenant and landlord. Hence the present inquiry, its only fault seems to be that it is aimed rather upmarket. It is downmarket where the real problems begin.

Yet still the tenants want to come. Anything is better than Mum or sharing with Cissie.

Sharon, who works at a seafood bar, slim, blonde, and seventeen, has been feeding me on cockles all summer so I won't forget... the first flat that's empty, please. And she's not a friend, Jackie, who'd like one, too. Then Kim phoned only last night. A very nice girl called Paula, shared with her last year, she'd like one, please.

The only trouble is, they don't look exactly like future sinking fund contributors to me.

However, with fetching female tenants, you can always be sure you're going to get something — the rent. Its very readiness, always waiting on the sideboard, always makes you think... well, you needn't blink that you're going to get anything.

The strategy only breaks down when the rent is late, or something. But then they gang together in the one flat. Two little tenants, slim in their nighties, heads slightly

drooping like a couple of wood anemones. Meirwen nudges Sharon. Who's going to say it? "Sorry, the Giro hasn't come. There they stand, close as Siamese twins, waiting for the rent, Jackie, only when you go. They probably don't even think of it like that. It's just feminine instinct. But I do. And that's just masculine instinct."

Admittedly there is a specious air of prosperity about the flats. Surprising what pot plants, net curtains, new fitted carpet, and a three-piece two swish to sit upon, can do.

No one would think you were sitting right over where all that sewage had discharged for years. That had been a tricky one. First, just a blocked WC. Clean it. But five phone calls in three days.

And sewage welling through the lowest point, the shower basin. Had to cut right through the bedstirrer floor, avoiding joists, gas and water pipes, and wiring. The soil

pipe had been dislodged two foot by piles of old mortar in the rubble-filled cellar below. Years of sewage. Would have stunk, but the floor was a good one, while surface water from a gutter had diluted everything. Still, a bit of a mess to clean up on your own. As the gas man would say — one of the pleasures of being a landlord.

But back to the questionnaire. To landlords and agents. "Would the amendment of Schedule 19 to extend the provisions relating to estimates of works to the costs of services including management fees and insurance premiums be an advantage or disadvantage in the management of blocks of flats?"

Well, I really think I'll have to check that one. And perhaps the whole questionnaire. It's simpler to go along with the floorboard saw and a pair of Stilsons. Anyway, if you're lucky enough to know a cockle-girl, you're not going to starve, are you?

They are currently holding a 'Committee of Inquiry on

the management of privately owned blocks of flats. Much of the 27-page questionnaire sent to landlords, or their agents, concerns "sinking funds", funds which are held in reserve for major maintenance, repairs or renewal — expenditures expected to be necessary from time to time."

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At the horse fair in Jerez

Fortified by the festivals of the sherry capital, Carol Wright takes the route of the white towns to the Costa de la Luz

Gonzales bias

SHAKESPEARE wrote more of sherry wine than his Spanish contemporary Cervantes. Britain is the world's top sherry consumer, downing 60 million barrels a year. Jerez, the Roman Ceret and Arab Scherish, is hardly known to the British visitors who crowd the Costa. Yet it is only two hours drive from Marbella, less from Estepona, sweeping down the four-lane coastal highway from such sybaritic hideaways as Puerto Romano near Marbella, Moorish-style complex of suites amid lush gardens, past the white rock escarpment of Gibraltar, and inland along the "route of the bulls".

The bulls for the Jerez festival fights are bred in farms along the great valleys, behind the towering La Concha mountains that shield Marbella from the worst of winter. Down through groves of cork trees, little white towns brood in the sun; the bulls in their pastures dreamily pose against the sun like the famous Osborne advertisements.

The hill-perched towns are in tradition lacking in tourists. There are no hotels and even the parador at Arcos is closed — considered unsafe on its rock pedestal. The villages, that used to nest below Arcos have gone but the narrow streets, terraces, churches and castle with its Goyas, and views of the valley and river with its mill (where de Falla set his *The Corned Hat*) are alluring.

Other hilltop gems around Jerez include El Bosque, Grazales with Spain's highest recorded rainfall, Olvera, Setenil and Ubrique; Arab in style with narrow alleys, wrought iron balconies, flowered patios and hanging geranium garlands. In the hills behind La Linea is the Moors' Castella de la Fron-

tera: its gates are still locked at night. Jerez is another stark white town, set among severe lines of vineyards on light, harsh soil. Based here one can, with a car, visit the hill villages or choose a day's beaches between the Atlantic or Mediterranean coasts.

The best place to stay is the hotel Jerez in the residential area, near the horse school and the smart El Bosque restaurant. The huge pool in the gardens is a body shouter after long days out, aided by light in summer till 10pm. About this time the bars liveen with the service of sherry *capitas* and *tapas*. The hotel restaurant is open till well after midnight.

Gonzalez Byass, one of the biggest sherry houses, gets 30,000 visitors a year and shows the contrast of its modern 60,000 barrel Las Copas store with the 1886 circular store designed by the architect of Tower Bridge. In the big cool, vaulted cellars shielded from the sun by woven grass mats over the windows are a 150-year-old sampling room, and barrels named for royals and apostles. From the shadows come mice to climb a little ladder and drink avidly from a *capita* of sweet sherry.

The two main Jerez festivals are the May horse fair and the late September vintage. The latter now offers little colourful events for the general public, apart from bullfights and horse performances. Most impressive is the blessing of the grapes outside the cathedral and, after a symbolic foot-pressing of the grapes, white racing pigeons are released, carrying on their legs little verses about the vintage penned by Andalusian poets.

The horse fair is perhaps more appealing, with its fairground parades of well-groomed Andalusian horses,

with riders slim in black suits, and their girls behind them in the flouncy, frilled bright dresses of the flamenco dancer. Flamenco is performed by the traditional schools of the city and equally surefooted are the performers of the Andalusian school of Equestrian art (started by Alvaro Domecq) at an indoor school which recalls that of Vienna.

Getting away from peopled places, the south coast round Tarifa has wide, long strands, said to have Europe's best wind-surfing waters and some Germans are developing a school there. Swinging north of Puerto de Santa Maria to San Lúcar, are beachside bars with excellent sea food and local manzanilla. North, up the Guadalquivir estuary, tranquil beaches face west across the river to the Coto Donana nature reserve. Though public access is limited, one can tour parts of it by Land Rover. Among these marshlands are deer, wild boar, rare Spanish lynx, fox, badger, and a rich bird life including imperial eagles — about seven pairs — waders and migratory birds.

FLIGHTS to Marbella or Madrid: Dan Air return flight to Malaga £78 return. Minimum stay — one week, maximum six weeks. Iberia Malaga return from £91 midweek, minimum stay one week, maximum four weeks. British Airways £91 return to Malaga, midweek flight, minimum stay one month. Madrid £95 return, midweek flight, minimum stay one month. Linking local flights from Madrid to Jerez: Iberia from 16,670 pesetas return.

General information from Spanish National Tourist Office, 57 St James's Street, London SW1A 1LD. (01-499 0901). Leading Hotels of the World (01-583 3050).



Paul Pickering reviews the arrangements made by the firm that pioneered children's holidays in Mallorca

How are we kidding?

IN THE good old days before tourism the wily inhabitants of Mallorca had a cunning way of keeping their offspring occupied in the almost hazy vest of those too young to work, that is they wrapped a packed lunch in a shawl and put it in the topmost branches of an unclimbable tree.

The child was then given a sling on the old-fashioned Davy and Goliath type and spent many a hungry hour trying to dislodge the tasty bundle. It taught the fit *maquitos* that only the fittest could become a legend in their own lunchtime and left the parents free to work like slaves for the local landlord.

The British company Churchill introduced a free parents' holiday resort to three parents without resorting to such extreme techniques. You must admit it's a good idea. A Churchill executive left us as we arrived at the Hotel Amapola, near Alcudia, Mallorca.

In theory, Mum and Dad can go to the beach on an excursion while their children are cared for by trained and capable help, all done by organising the kids into clubs for various age groups. Parents can dance the night away, we were told as "room patrols" swing into action looking after their precious. But unlike the sling, the packed lunch and the almond tree this "good idea" runs into snags.

The trouble is that older children are only off their parent's hands for three hours a day — although the brochure does make this reasonably clear. Under four get a twice-weekly nursery if there are "sufficient numbers," which does not even allow for a half day's excursion to the remarkable Caves of Drac, where string quartets serenade you from boats among the stalactites and stalagmites of an underground river. There is no time to hire a car and explore the spectacular north of the island to see Fornalutxa or Black Madonna at the Monasterio de Lluch, the prettiest part of Mallorca.

"It's a very nice hotel," said Wendy from Manchester. "But we've not been able to go on any of the trips and I don't feel happy leaving my three-year-old in the hotel at night. The one girl who does the room patrols just listens at the door."

Not that I would criticise the nursery nurse, she added. "She does well to cope with all those children on her own." There was meant to be another nursery worker, we were told, but she had resigned. The other two Churchill staff had their hands full with grown-ups and transfers to the airport. The room patrol for Saturday night, a day when most parents would want to go out, had been cancelled.

"I've only been out of the hotel once and left my two in the room," said Brian, a computer consultant, rather guiltily. "You don't feel very comfortable. And there should be more supervision during the day to allow us to relax more. It is not as good for children as they make out. One nurse should not be coping with 15 kids."

Glynis, Brian's wife, complained that there was no playground for toddlers and no supervision in any part of the otherwise excellent swimming pool. "One has to watch them all the time," she referred to that hawk-eyed look mothers develop on holiday. "What's more," said Brian, "I would have liked the children's play area to be a little less dangerous. We referred to an orange-painted breeze-block fort with twin turrets by a lake that flanks the hotel. It could have been designed by the wicked schoolboy hero of a Tom Sharpe novel. The 'jeans slide' down a wire cable was frayed and slack and Errol Flynn fights on the battlements could fall on very hard ground. Again there was no supervision."

"We had trouble persuading the hotel to do all this," said the Churchill spokesman. "But the bar takings are up on normal."

The best points of these holidays are the safe sandy beach a quarter of a mile from the hotel, and the fact that one child can travel free if he's under eleven and sleeps in the parents' room. The rooms tend to be rather small for multiple occupation. One was left with the impression that the "good idea" of the family holiday was not being used because enough had not been spent on the playground facilities. True the brochure explains what the arrangements for children are, but not everyone would realise that the statement "we look after the kids while you do whatever you feel like" is subject to considerable limitation. Thinking from a child's point of view, I would rather be given a sling and told to knock my lunch from the top of an almond tree instead of being regimented with other children. But kids are always the last people to be consulted.

Churchill Holidays is now incorporated in the Falcon Leisure Group and trades as Family Fun Holidays. Mike Colleen of Falcon deprecates Paul Pickering's critique. He replies that the brochure is clear on the three-hour period; that the play area is sturdy, and safe, and that the evening patrols do not enter the rooms so as to avoid disturbing the children. (Travel Ed.)

TRAVEL NOTES: Prices for a two-week holiday for a single adult costs from £199 in May to £279 in July-August half board. On certain weeks in the booking calendar one child, under 11, can travel free if sharing a room with two paying adults. Even the second or third child can have reduced price accommodation again if you share. The Clubs cost £9 for two weeks including T-shirt. As an alternative, there are self-catering holidays at the Cala D'or park apartments. Self-catering, separate pool for children plus entertainment programme. Room patrol service. From £148 to £243 for 14 nights with free week at certain times of the year, and special reductions for children. Price based on four people sharing. Wonderful beach suitable for children.

Rough but ready

"POVOA DE VARZIM owes its beauty to the sea. Formerly a fishing village, it now boasts a casino, a luxury hotel, two heated swimming pools, a golf course... with speed boats and monoplanes for hire. But only in summer — the rest of the year is left to the fishermen, who, wearing rough sweaters of brown wool, are dressed in red with Solomon's seal, crosses, and anchors and lobster, continue in all weathers their age-old life of work and danger. Povoa de Varzim has an excellent Museum of Ethnography and History." FODOR PORTUGAL (1982 edition).

"...although Povoa does retain a small harbour and the ruins of a fortress, it has been heavily developed as a resort. A casino and a line of concrete hotels open onto the beach, and it's crowded throughout the year with Portuguese holidaymakers. Far from being oppressive, though, the crowds add to the atmosphere. It's lively, and there's a fair chance of finding cheap accommodation. THE ROUGH GUIDE TO PORTUGAL Mark Ellingham and John Fisher (Routledge, 1983).

A case of two sets of travel writers selectively describing what they think their readers expect to see? That may sound harsh, but guidebooks are often in some ways like travel brochures, tending to deal in superlatives, seeking out the historical, the traditional, the picturesque. Most guidebooks are full of useful shopping lists, advising you where best to buy the indigenous lace/pottery/silverwork, as though having supplies of objects d'art to delight and amaze your friends back home was the whole point of travel. Of course, the shopping expedition comes after you have been settled into your non-comfort-spaced concrete hotel, and the required visit to the Ethnological Museum. But if you really want to see the country, its people and their way of life? How helpful are the guides then?

Fodor writes graphically of everyday life in the Minho region of Northern Portugal, where there are "shepherds in homespun garments their flocks guarded against wolves by great shaggy dogs." Unfortunately, in our experience, flocks were a bit thin on the ground in the mountains

round the spa town of Geres, which we visited. We did come across one goatherd, tending his three goats, who seemed to favour jeans and a T-shirt rather than homespun. And as for the wolves.... They are promised, as well as "wild cats and eagles," in the Rough Guide.

But the terrain seemed virtually deserted of any wild life higher than butterflies and adders, though we did find a spectacular specimen of slug. Sightings of any bird life — even sparrows — were infrequent enough to cause comment. Plaques showing the types of deer reputedly abounding in the forests were certainly more plentiful than the deer themselves.

But there are guides that don't assume you're seeing the country from the confines of a car. The Rough Guide to Portugal (one in a series) aims at this kind of tourist, such as ourselves, and provides information on the locations and timings of local buses and trains. It may not always be comprehensive, nor completely accurate (and it would be unrealistic to expect this; but it does give the traveller the confidence of knowing

that getting around by local transport is not only feasible, but an excellent way of getting a feel of the country.

Sharing a train carriage with an elderly couple on their way back from market may not be that unusual an experience. But when one of their plastic carrier bags suddenly leaps up into the air with a squawk and angrily snaps at your feet, you realise that Sunday roast doesn't come frozen and beautifully wrapped everywhere.

The Rough Guide is a brave attempt at breaking the usual guidebook tradition.

It contains an informative

history of Portugal leading up to the 1983 election, useful vocabulary (though no pronunciation), town maps, cheap places to stay (including camping) and eat. The chatty commentary can be intrusive, especially if you'd really prefer to judge things for yourself, but generally it's lively and very readable.

So what was our opinion of the Povoa de Varzim? Not a beauty spot, for sure — after the scenic Vila do Conde just along the coast, concrete raises its ugly head. But the beach is a fine compensation, with plenty of huts for hire at less than £1 a day — though the sea off this coast is cold,

and often dangerous to swim in.

There are plenty of places to stay, and the town does have a bustling charm of its own. It's a truly Portuguese resort — Blackpool without the tower. A walk along the seaford of Mariscos, the excellent seafood restaurant at Vila, watching the sun set over the fishing boats moored in the harbour, the horse and carts being driven, dripping and overlaid by the seaweed gatherers in the growing gloom, makes as memorable evening as any holidaymaker could wish for. And we skipped the Ethnological Museum.

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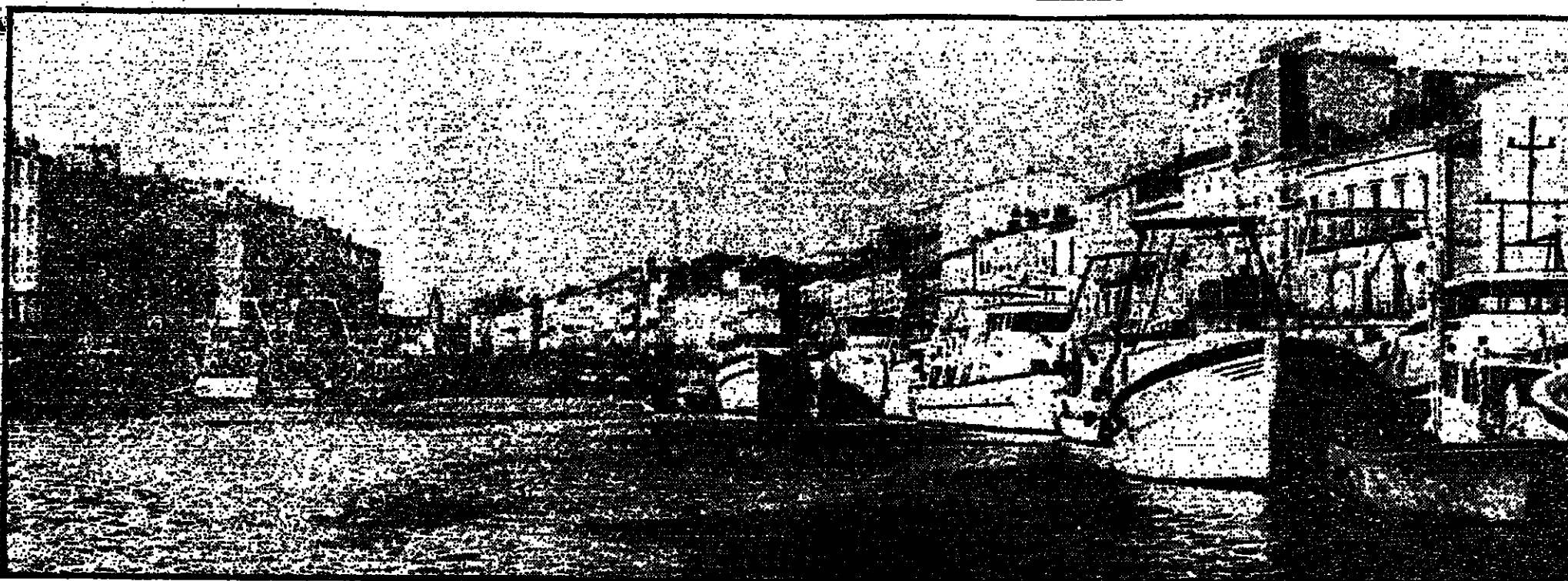
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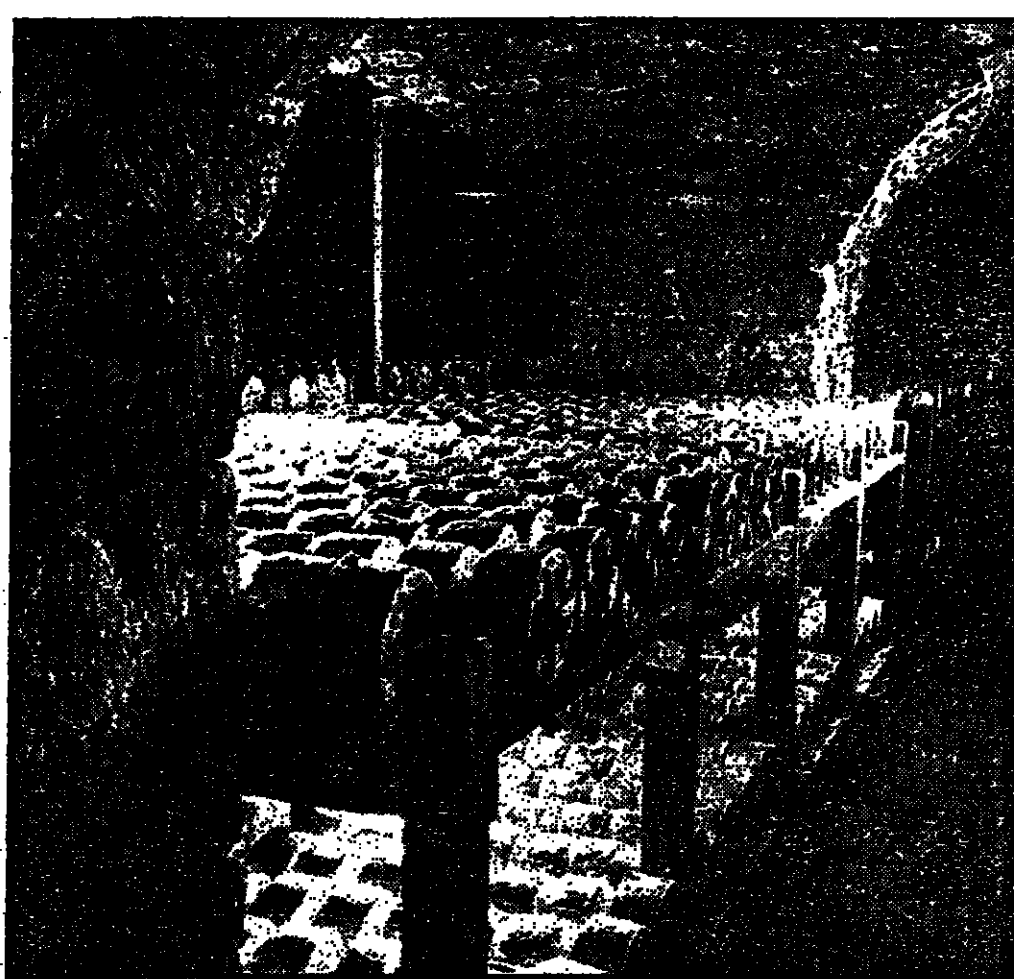
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Top picture: the harbour at Sete; above: a hideaway in the Languedoc, one of the many gites in the Vacances Franco-Britannique brochure; right: the Roquefort cheese cellars.



Cynthia Bateman tackles the gargantuan gastronomy offered in the little frequented foothills of the Cevennes

But on the eighth day God got it wrong

THE SHUTTERS were thrown back. The rain teemed along the gutters until the gargle became a roar, as the river jostled its way into the mainstream. Tunneling through the Gorges du Tarn, the lamp on the castle wall flashed on and off with each gust of wind. Illuminating a medieval scene.

The morning light in Brousse-le-Chateau revealed slippery, steep cobbled alleys, winding between the stone-and-timber houses, where moon-faced matrons with Cheshire cat smiles peered from behind lace curtains, as curious to see out as the stranger to see in. The only inhabitant about in the early morning damp an old man, as gaunt and bent as the cobbled bridge, his faded blue beret even older than himself, and Wellingtons coming up to the waist of his matchstick body, his greeting a mixture of the diffidence and friendliness found here between the Cevennes and the sea.

In the Relais Du Chateau, hot coffee and fresh croissants stood on tables which, the night before, had seen the best charcuterie du pays precede local salmon, then the tenderest of lamb with horseradish, piping hot cheeses and apricot tarts the size of cart-wheels. Local wines at next to nothing a bottle, and a nightcap of Armagnac, and who notices that the bed is lumpy? The room in this tiny auberge on the one real street of this river fortress costs only 56F anyway. Breakfast another 16F, and a six or seven course dinner the night before — escargots farcis, truit meuniere, lapin chasseur, cotes d'agneau — with aperitif and wine, not much more than 65F.

This is a hideaway in the Vacances Franco-Britannique brochures: one of dozens of escapists' bolt-holes — inns, gites, cottages — throughout France. Languedoc, little populated or visited, is VFB's speciality. So particular are they to protect their escapists from over-exposure to other English visitors, that they never take two properties next to each other, nor book more than two or three rooms at the same hotel.

Languedoc sprawls along the Mediterranean coast between the fashionable areas of Provence, and the more exotic southern stretch from Carcassonne. Its airport at Montpellier is a dinky, basic-free affair, where car hire is made easy. If you come in your own car you are about 600 miles from the Channel ports. Ferry/motor rail packages are available.

The coast itself has less to commend it than its fashionable neighbours, but against that you can always find a piece of privacy on the vast sands that stretch between places like Sete and Cap d'Agde.

Sete is the Venice of Languedoc, built between the sea and lagoon on miles of canal; tall, thin houses huddle on what bit of land isn't water; restaurants crowd the quayside, nearly pushing the oyster stalls overboard into the laps of the passengers on pleasure launches, whose skippers tout for trade over tannoy.

Twenty kilometres or so away is Cap d'Agde, the new town version of Sete. A marina resort, its houses and apartments are supposedly Languedocienne but all so similar that if someone hadn't said the development had taken 10 years, it might all have gone up the same day... and on the eighth day God created Cap d'Agde... and what a mistake that was.

Better forget the coast, and drive inland along the country lanes through miles of vineyards. In mid-September the fields and villages buzz with tractors pulling skips full of grapes. Nobody will mind if you drive into the yard of one of the Caves Co-operatives, the regional wine factories, to watch the full grapes squashed into juice in the crushing machines. Nothing romantic about this process. Languedoc produces much of France's table wine; hardly notable except for the price, which puts it on most French kitchen tables every day of the week.

The country lanes dissect major highways and it is on these you will find the auberges that give you as good a room with private

facilities as any modern hotel, and provide a dinner at near gastronomic quality at nothing near gastronomic prices. The Auberges de la Tour on the N9 at Valros, 15km north of Berger and in the heart of the vineyards, is one such place.

The grape harvest might have been good hereabouts but the profit to the growers is so unsatisfactory that many districts are trying to supplement their incomes by attracting visitors in the way that English Lakeland farmhouses do. The Mayor of St Pargoire rents out the ground floor of his house on the edge of the village with panoramic vistas of vineyards. Beware an invitation to "a little Sunday lunch" — size, like time, is relative, and the mayor's home-made pastis corrodes the language barrier as well as the tannin.

The same scale of lunch — gargantuan — was served north of here at Le Muscadet, a farmhouse at La Canourgue where the stars start to steepen into the foothills of the Cevennes. Repas a la ferme are becoming increasingly popular, and Madame Dalio rustles up a banquet in the time it takes most of us to make a cheese sandwich.

The charcuterie came first, of course, but with it an omelette the size of a dustbin lid, then a cheese flan of similar proportions, kebabs of pork skewered over the open fire, and then... and then... and so it went on, the long trestle table and the guests groaning with the weight of it. Price for five courses, about £7.

La Canourgue is on the edge of one of the Grands Causses, the high plateaux of the southern part of the Massif Central, gutted by gorges that carry great rivers in leaps and bounds to the sea. At La Malene on the Tarn, you can be punted downstream, the best way to see the great gorge gliding by. The Roquefort cheese caves, open to visitors, are a short drive from here. This is country where you will feel you are breaking new ground; it has ivy-covered auberges hidden away and curious houses to rent in quiet corners of hamlets that hang on hillsides.

VFB offer all sorts. A modern bungalow has a pool that boasts a distant view of the Pyrenees. A rambling three-storey lichen-pocked stone house has a terrace at every level affording different aspects at every time of day; elevenses facing east, lunch facing south, sundowners looking west. A converted byre on a sheep-croft meadow leaves the

nearest neighbour a yodel away. The difficulty is making yourself leave your holiday retreat to explore. And there is plenty: the bizarre rock amphitheatres of the Cirque de Mourze, the Lac de Salagou for watersports, the underground cathedral of Les Grottes de Demoiselle, and a thousand ancient villages.

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Cynthia Bateman visited Languedoc as a guest of Vacances Franco-Britanniques.

Tim Salmon covers some useful groundwork on the long-distance paths through France

Taking the long way round

"I NEED torrents, rocks, pine-trees, dark forests, mountains, rugged paths to go up and down, precipices at my elbow to give me a good fright," Rousseau wrote in his Confessions.

France certainly offers the walker all that, and more. From the daunting, glaciated heights of the Alps to the sunnier, friendlier Pyrenees, the damp wooded mountains of the Vosges to the gentle hills of the Dordogne, the slow rivers of Charente and the marshes of Poitou — there is an immense variety of terrain, and trails to suit all tastes.

Walking is highly organised in France, with over 30,000km of waymarked long-distance paths, known as sentiers de grande randonnée — GR, for short. Some are real marathons like the GR5 from the Dutch coast to Nice, the trans-Pyrenean GR10 and the Grande Traversée des Alpes. Some follow ancient drovers' roads and pilgrim routes, notably the GR65, the Chemin de Saint Jacques, which runs for 1,000km from Le Puy in Auvergne via Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in the Basque country to the shrine of St James at Compostella in Spain. The GR3 follows the Loire from source to sea. The GR36 and 46 meander across the old English provinces of the middle west past churches, castles, bastides, and the fabulous prehistoric caves of Les Eyzies.

The GRs are described in a series of Topo-guides, in French, which give detailed information about routes, including maps, campsites, refuges, transport and places to stock up with food. But there are other walking possibilities. Many regions publish guides to their local footpaths, mainly day walks, which are obtainable from local tourist offices. In the mountains these usually share premises with professional guides and hike-leaders, who organise climbing and walking expeditions at all levels and open to all (50-90F for day walks).

Then there are canal and riverside towpaths. And don't scorn minor country roads. In areas like the Dordogne and Basque country or round the Cathar castles of Ariège they are scarcely disturbed by traffic.

Food and accommodation are rarely a problem, though watch out in resort areas between July 15 and August 15. Restaurants with always adequate and sometimes exceptional 4-course menus from 45-55F are two a penny.

Hotels with rooms from 55-90F are plentiful. For Youth Hostels, get the handbook of the Ligue Française pour les Auberges de Jeunesse (83 rue de Bennes, 75006 Paris); the international handbook lists only the hostels belonging to the rival Federation Unie. Campsites abound and there is always room for a small lightweight.

Many GRs have gites d'etape — unmanned hostels with bunks and kitchens, for 30F. Mountain refuge huts are mostly manned in July and August and provide meals; they are open to all for 38F, but cost less for members of clubs affiliated to the French Alpine Club. Transport is good. Airports serve the main regions. The railway network is extensive and where the trains stop, railway buses continue to popular walking centres.

Where to go? In the Pyrenees, I'd say the Basque country west of St-Jean-Pied-de-Port for gentle rolling hills and pretty villages and the Ste-Engrace area for more dramatic but still habitable mountains (transhumant shepherds, etc). Anywhere in the Pyrenees is lovely. Pau is the best base camp — but avoid Lourdes. Gavarnie and Cauterets are crowded but beautiful. The Tour of the Pic du Midi d'Ossau is marvellous (no foodshops after Laruns!) for views, lakes, flowers, shepherds, and marmots.

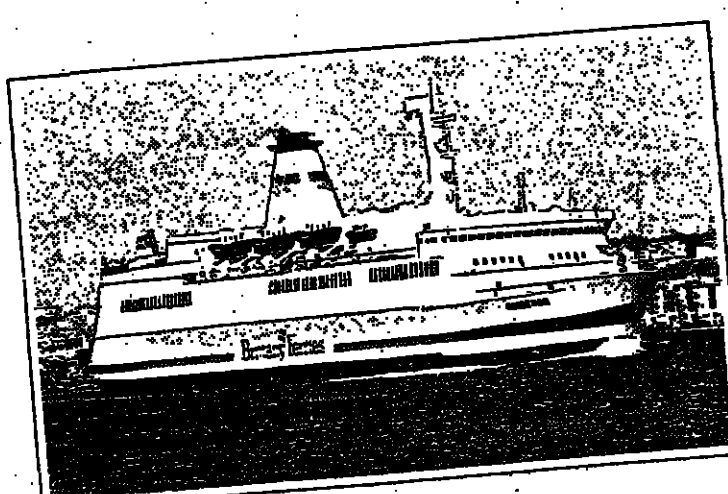
In the Alps, too, go for the Pyrenees, especially Queyras and Vanoise where some vestige of traditional rural Alpine life still survives. All have round-the-park trails. (Don't miss the churches in the upper Arve Valley.) Chamonix is a dreadful place, though there are endless trails and the "Blonk", as British climbers insist on calling Mont Blanc, is breathtaking. Try the Samoens-Sion area in Faucigny a little to the north.

For information, ideas, planning, consult Rob Hunter's Walking in France (Hamlyn), with an exhaustive list of addresses, including where to get information on local paths, and IGN map 903, which shows the entire GR network. The IGN 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 series are the best maps for walkers.

Of English-language guides, Key Reynolds's Walks and Climbs in the Pyrenees and Andrew Harper's Tour of Mt Blanc (both Cicerone Press) are very useful. The French Government Tourist Office (178 Piccadilly, London W1) provides free lists of hotels and campsites and sells, for £4, a booklet called Accueil a la Campagne, which catalogues farm camping and gites d'etape (the list is incomplete).

For information about the Pyrenees, contact C.I.M.E.S.-Pyrenees, 3 Square Balagne, 09200 Saint-Girons, their booklet. Randonnees Pyreneennes has numerous ideas for walks long and short. For the Alps, contact C.I.M.E.S. Maison du Tourisme, 14 rue de la Republique, 38027 Grenoble-Cedex. (Unless otherwise stated all books, guides and maps mentioned here are obtainable from: Edward Stanford, 12 Long Acce, London WC2, and McCarty, 122 Kings Cross Road, London WC2.

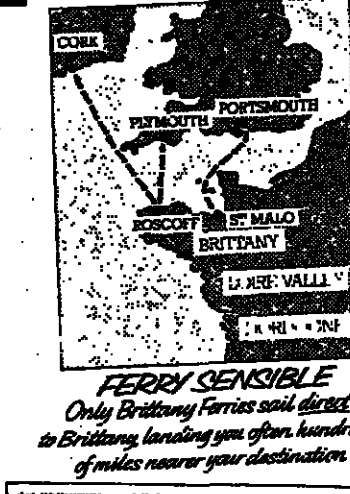
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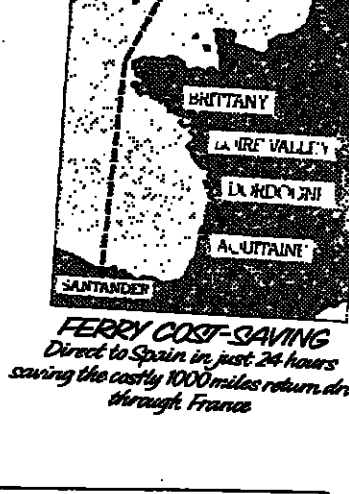
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WEEK-END ARTS

Pick of next week's television and radio

Monday

Court Report: Regina v. Pouting (C4, 10.55 and nightly for the duration of the trial, times vary). Godfrey Hodgson fronts half-hour reports on the trial of the senior civil servant accused of leaking Government documents on the Belgrano affair. The intention is for actors to read chunks of the proceedings verbatim — could be stylised if the case goes in camera.

Submarine (BBC-1, 7.40). Nice timing as we see the commander of the Warspite, HMS Conqueror's sister submarine, revealing in a mock attack on a merchant convoy in which he bags no less than 29 ships. Reality, however, is different. The sinking of the Belgrano, he says, "had a tremendous effect on us... I would have done it because that was required to win the war — I don't think I'd have taken much pleasure in doing so."

Four Days in July (BBC-1, 9.25). Intricate, leisurely and funny Mike Leigh play about two young Belfast couples — one Catholic, one Protestant — expecting their first child. The Catholics are all neighbourhood and leprechaun humour — even a spell in Long Kesh is treated as a joke as two veterans recall setting up a potter still in a lavatory cistern. Billy, the Protestant, is a braggart, Jewish soldier in the UDR; his wife has to jump it.

Tuesday

Wildlife On One (BBC-1, 8.55). Like the best of C. A. Abrahams aboard a three-masted sailing ship, we pursue the giant humpback whales on their 3,000 mile migration to the Caribbean. Very telegraphic they are to be seen in shapes gliding through the water, making their eerie radiophonic noises and even presenting a cuddly one-and-a-half ton baby for our admiration.

The 30th Standard Drama Awards (ITV, 10.30). A chance to see clips from all the best TV drama of the year, missed last year in this mutual back-lapping event introduced by Ned Sherrin.

Wednesday

Blow-by-blow Vegas (BBC-1, 9.25). This Real to Life film follows the British team in the World Hairdressing Championships through selection and training to the final snip against the clock. Two Welsh-Greek demon barbers crimp their way to glory in the men's event but as for the ladies... the game plan was to produce something "simple, classic, and expensive." So how come the models look as if blonde flying saucers have landed on their heads?

Diverse Reports (C4, 8.30). Christine Chapman in America arguing in favour of surrogate mothers operating commercially.

Thursday

The End Of The Pier Show (BBC-2, 9.30). One of those multi-eyed TV shows of the decline of another beloved British institution. Cromer has its drawbacks as a resort — "sometimes it's so bit-

terly cold it's like winter" — but it does have a summer show, just. Ten singing magicians and dancing comedians come on like a cast of thousands for a dwindling band of pensioners.

Speak Out (BBC-2, 5.30). International talk-in between British and Soviet teenagers, linked by satellite. They exchange their impressions of each other and their views on the likelihood of nuclear war.

Friday

A Week In Politics Special (C4, 8.15). Mrs Thatcher seems to be putting herself about a bit: interviews with her are becoming almost a weekly event. Here she will be talking to Peter Jay about the changes in British politics since she became Prime Minister. One change that will probably pass unmentioned is the one in our Washington Embassy round about the start of her premiership.

The Sonnets Of William Shakespeare (C4, 9.15). A. L. Rowse puts over his theory that the Dark Lady of the Sonnets was even more of a dark horse than previously supposed and Ben Kingsley performs the sonnet, "In the old age black was not counted fair."

Helen Oldfield

Radio

Today: Punk to Present: Anarchy in the UK? (Radio 1, 1 pm). Remember The Sex Pistols and their nasty behaviour on TV? Mike Smith, in the second of his series on British rock music, talks to Richard Branson and some of the musicians of the day about the early days of punk.

Cronomies of War (Radio 4, 8.30 pm). Philip Purser's play about a young soldier in the second world war, with Guy Holden as the hero.

Tomorrow: Weekend (Radio 4, 11.15 am). Chairman of the BBC, Stuart Young, with Lord Alan and Tim Brinton talk about the future of public service broadcasting — or, to be more honest, start their public campaign for the licence fee.

Luther (Radio 3, 6.15 pm). Repeat of John Osborne's long and powerful play with a prize-winning performance from Clive Merrison in the title role.

Monday: Shaping the Curriculum (Radio 3, 7 pm). Another burst of BBC concern about schooling, with some very high-profile contributors including inspectors, teachers and Sir Keith.

Tuesday: A Touch of Midas? (Radio 4, 8.30 pm). Start of a five-part series about millionaires, all presented by William Davis, a millionaire himself. This week Michael Caine, the way to star.

Wednesday: The Traveller (Radio 5, 7.30 pm). New play by prize-winning author of the excellent Kamikaze Ground Staff Reunion Dinner, Stewart Parker, about a travel writer's exploration of Britain in an attempt to regain his peace of mind.

Val Arnold-Forster

TWO THINGS about Terry Gilliam come as a surprise: that the animator from the quiescently British Monty Python team should be an American from Minneapolis; and that behind the lure of his humour lies a rather serious man.

His new film, *Brazil*, which opens in London next month, was wrapped in a thick cloak of secrecy while it was being produced. "We weren't sure what we were doing, so it was best not to say anything till we'd finished," Gilliam says. "I so resent the world where every idea, every concept has to be easily marketable: the McDonald's hamburgers of ideas." When Gilliam was trying to raise the \$15 million to make *Brazil* he approached Paramount. "They said they were only making films that could be described in one sentence. That's terrifying." He came up with "Brazil's about dealing with reality." Or "Franz Kafka meets George Orwell." Or "It's about growing up." Paramount didn't give him the money.

Brazil puts Gilliam's earlier films, *Jabberwocky* and *Time Bandits*, into perspective. The same themes recur: the power of the imagination, the perversity of technology, innocence, dreams, the perception of reality as a bizarre, uncontrollable, demonic force where the only certainty is that whatever happens next it will be "something completely different." Even the same characters reappear, wearing different masks. Michael Palin in *Jabberwocky*, the child Kevin in *Time Bandits* and now Jonathan Pryce, as San Lowry in *Brazil*, the same character inhabiting different bodies in different times. "And guess who that is, folks?" Gilliam asks.

"Lowry is really Kevin 15 years later," Gilliam says. "Now he's out in the real world and he's made certain choices about how he wants to lead his life. He's really the antithesis of the Peter Principle: he's well beneath his capabilities. He's carved himself out a neat little corner in the Ministry of Information where he can dream, where he can lord it over his boss. That's the bubble that eventually has to be burst. And unless you're a vengeance, you can't see the film has nothing whatsoever to do with *Brazil*, the country, although Gilliam claims it was inspired by *Brazil* the popular song of the 30s. But he also admits

Terry Gilliam: Picture by Kenneth Saunders

Comedy is the passport to Terry Gilliam's bizarre inner world, but for some it's no laughing matter when they get there. Chris Goodwin reports on Gilliam's latest film, *Brazil*, and its director

A crazy way of life

he lies constantly about his films. And that's a lie too," he adds helpfully.

Gilliam says he deliberately uses the humour as a bait for the audience. It intrigues him to see how far a director can go with making people laugh and yet still disturb them. It's not easy to trust a director who is so unrepentantly manipulative. "I use comedy as a way of getting people to go on the ride. A lot of people resent going on those rides because they like to know where

they're going before they get there, and I have no intention of telling them."

"With *Time Bandits* — and I think it'll be even more true of *Brazil* — we found that a lot of older people, more rational people, who wanted a very clearly constructed universe, had a very hard time with the film. It frightened them." Gilliam found directing a painful experience at first and plainly doesn't count his partnership with Terry Jones on *Monty Python* and the *Holy Grail* a success. "I was

always used to working with bits of paper. I didn't really know how to deal with people." The rest of the Python team showed no respect for his talents as a director because they knew he wasn't one. It was only when working with people like Max Wall and John Le Mesurier on *Jabberwocky*, that he began to enjoy it "because they actually believed that I was a director so I didn't have to cajole them at all."

He also believes that the actors he works with have grown to trust him not to

ruin their performances through bad editing and even claims that in *Brazil* the editing has helped to make a bad actor look good. "I won't tell you who, but it's not Jonathan Pryce."

Not, one presumes, Robert De Niro, who came to the film through Arnon Milchan, producer of *King of Comedy* and *Once Upon a Time in America*. De Niro is hard to recognise in *Brazil*. He plays an uncomplicated, un-neurotic hero, and his face is always covered by something — a balacava or giant, eye-

distorting, welding glasses. "I love the idea of getting an international superstar and putting a bag over his head," Gilliam giggles. He seems to be a bit of a Victorian fantasist who murdered his father and was confined in Bethlem Royal Hospital for the rest of his life. Gilliam's desk is cluttered with numerous bits of paper animated by strange cavoring creatures, weird objects, and apparently impossible buildings. In *Brazil* he's created a complete imaginary world.

"I get viscerally excited when I start imagining things," he says. "It's a cheap drug, my imagination, using it is one of my ways of dealing with reality, because reality is so complex and uncontrollable." With *Brazil* it becomes apparent how personal Gilliam's films are. The main characters are people who are constantly shocked by the dreadful things that happen to them. It's as if Gilliam is trying to say to the audience "Look, this is what happens to me, this is the way life attacks me, see if you like it any better." And the same once he has to suffer the same onslaught of uncontrollable events, sweetened with humour of course.

But Gilliam knows he can't go on feigning innocence. Through his films he's realised the power his imagination has to manipulate people, and his next film will be something completely different. Loosely based on the tales of Baron von Munchausen, an outrageous yarns of fantasy and adventure, it will be set in a city under siege, "really grim and awful, people starving, people dying of wounds and all sorts of terrible diseases, and this guy's wandering through, this teller of tales and he's going to be completely useless."

"But gradually his lies begin to inspire them, they begin to believe them, they need them. They're so distracted from their wounds and diseases that they actually start to do things they don't believe they can do, to the point where they're through his illusions. Another moral tale," he chuckles.

A special screening of *Brazil* will precede Terry Gilliam's Guardian lecture at the National Theatre on Sunday, February 3.

TELEVISION

Hugh Hebert

The New Pacific

SOURCES close to the television screen say that Micronesia is the strategic key to the western Pacific. Those further away can't see it all, or think it's series of fly byones on the vast map. Watching *The New Pacific* (BBC-2) you discovered it really consists of small islands like Yap and Saipan and Guam that are mostly covered by US servicemen and Japanese visitors looking for the bones of their ancestors.

Very important, the Pacific: its waters wash the shores of countries with a third of the world's population and most of its beaches, combers, and they all seem to have got the idea that they have something in common, that there is a kind of Pacific destiny. That, anyway, was the impression given last week by the British television series, *The New Pacific*. The second, subtitled *Echoes of War*, looked more like the ghosts of Tojo and MacArthur marching side by side into the sunrise.

Tojo, executed as a war criminal, has been rehabilitated lately. General MacArthur, driven out of the western Pacific by the Japanese, promised "I will return" — I think he promised it to Errol Flynn or John Wayne — and return he did. The Philippines alone now has 40,000 US servicemen plus another 20,000 when the Fleet is in. President Marcos hoovers up \$200 million a year in rents for the bases. The Pacific islands float on Coca Cola, and Micronesia, we're told, has the highest suicide rate in the world.

It was pretty high on Saipan in the summer 1944, when 30,000 Japanese were killed and many leapt from the cliffs to avoid shameful surrender as the Americans came back. The fact is, some of them were found searching for bones, building a cairn of them topped with a neat row of skulls for the postscript by Shinto belief will release their limboed souls.

In Japan itself, there may be big demonstrations against the visit of a nuclear powered US carrier, presumably carrying nuclear weapons. But here they looked ragged and ineffectual against the grey bulk of the carrier, the ordered black lines of riot police, the Red Square-style parade of Japan's self-defence force which it is not allowed, under its constitution, to call an army or navy or air force, but which has 250,000 men at arms.

The series got into its stride this time, with a strong theme, but I had an uneasy feeling that some-

Japanese policy sounded as though they were read straight off a Pentagon hand-out, the references to possible flashpoints — Korea, the Thai-Kampuchean border — were sometimes perfunctory, sometimes puzzling. How much weight were we supposed to give the heavily underlined discovery of tunnels running from North Korea towards the South, under the border? I mean, tunnels?

COVENTRY

Gerald Lamer

Punch And Judy

ANYONE who (like me) failed to understand the seaside Punch and Judy as a child could scarcely have expected to understand the operatic Punch and Judy when Harrison Birtwistle's tragical comedy or musical tragedy made its debut at the end of the 1980s. The virtue of the much welcomed Opera Factory version is not that it makes the work more comprehensible, but that it stops you worrying too much about the intellectual aspect.

For one thing, it tracks some of the pretentious stuff out of Stephen Pruslin's libretto. For another, it is much more important, it makes a direct physical link between what you see on the stage and what you hear in the pit. That in itself is interesting enough for anyone without reach of the arts council tour (to Manchester, Bournemouth and Bristol) to have a look at it.

The achievement is all the more admirable in that David Freeman has had to coach his singers in more than the usual operatic techniques. As they pursue their violent ends in his children's playground set — on the climbing frame, the seesaw, the swing, and down the slide — they perform some impressive acrobatics.

Since it is also a very tricky score, it is remarkable that they can sing it so well in these circumstances. In fact, it is not the acrobatics which get in their way but the orchestra. It could be different elsewhere, but in the Arts Centre at Warwick University which has the advantage of a pit, not many of the words emerge unscathed from their conflict with the instrumentalists of the Kodály Ensemble.

Neither they nor the musical conductor, Howard Williams, is to blame. Birtwistle's sound world is a peculiarly tough one, particularly in the early stages of the piece, and even these voices with the muscular development of Omar Elrahman's Punch or Graham Titus's Choroagos find themselves up against it.

But be patient. The score

major set pieces, like Judy's lament with oboe d'amore (beautifully sung by Hilary Western), Punch's serenade with alto flute and viola; or *Pretty Polly's* withering oratorio (brilliantly done by Marie Angel). There are also some very fascinating details — like an eerie little duet for cello and bass or the sliding and whispering of violins round a 3-note viola solo that, though the ear might flinch from time to time, it never actually gives up.

HAMPSTEAD

Michael Billington

The Power Of The Dog

IT IS fascinating to contrast Howard Barker's latest stage play, *The Power of the Dog* at Hampstead Theatre, with his recent radio play, *Scenes From an Execution*. Radio's implicit demand for a coherent narrative produced an absolute masterpiece about a woman artist wrestling with a commission to paint the battle of Lepanto. The stage's relative freedom, however, allows Barker to indulge his appetite for political surrealism and the result is an intriguing but unfocused play about the obnoxiousity of authoritarianism.

We realise we are in for something strange in the first (and last) scene. Stalin meets Churchill in the Kremlin and to the ribald comments of a Scots comic who enjoys the licence of a Shakespearean fool, the two leaders carve up the European continent in a parody of the Yalta Conference. All the play's essential themes are here: the arrogance of power, the celebration of war, the isolation of leaders from everyday reality (the one thing Stalin yearns for is to meet a woman by accident on a train). But, having played so many of his cards, Mr Barker allows the action to develop into a series of nightmarish fragments of war set mainly on the Polish plains, the following scenes concern the adventures of a fugitive Hungarian model, and a photographer who, in the course of seeking her dead sister, attracts the love of a lieutenant from the Soviet Army's 72nd Motorised Division.

Despite the existence of explicit Brechtian scene-descriptions (*The Soldiers' Fictional History* and suchlike), it is not always easy to see what point Mr Barker is making. But, as he intercuts between the chaotic tyranny of Stalin in the Kremlin and the jagged reality of Poland at the war's end, I take it he is saying something about the divorce between power and experience. Stalin struts and frets and concerns himself with the role of the artist (shades of Master Class) and his own impact on history; mean-

while, graves are dug and individuals try to exorcise the spirit of the Party with Macbeth-like incantations.

But, although Mr Barker creates power with insanity and (basing his title from the Psalms) defends the individual human spirit against the Stalin-juggernaut, his play creates few memorable characters: even the most recognisable, which is the Hungarian refugee (played with start, unsmiling power by Stephanie Fayerman), emerges as a modern-day Mother Courage. And time and again I found myself wishing that Mr Barker had allied his undoubted flair for sharp, raw, poetic dialogue with a narrative that propelled one forward from scene to scene. He can do it on radio so why not on the stage?

Undeniably Kenny Ireland's Joint Stock production creates an epic-theatre feel with minimal resources; and among the many good players involved are Philip McGough as a bullish, brutishly whimsical Stalin, Hugh Fraser as the love-shaken lieutenant, and Peter Sprague as a jutting-jawed Churchill paying tribute to the Red Army and "the robust Ivan." But I found much of the play passing before me without biting deep into my consciousness, as I kept wishing that Mr Barker could find, as in *Scenes From an Execution*, a story that could harness his exceptional visionary talent.

FESTIVAL HALL

Edward Seckerson

Sinopoli/Philharmonia

THE Fifth Symphonies of Schubert and Mahler make a programme of almost perfect musical equilibrium, the one a natural precursor to the other, with sunnier pages of Mahler's most schizophrenic symphony serving to remind us just how much he in fact inherited of Schubert's lyrical grace and charm.

Perhaps that's what I missed most in these performances from Giuseppe Sinopoli. His Schubert — efficient, alert, not insensitive, but really rather anonymous — resolutely refused to smile. It just doesn't pay, for instance, to take the first movement allegro marking as its work unless you can create an illusion of relaxation at the brisker pace as Sinopoli did not. That delicately turned first subject failed to ease the heart as it must, and no end of refinement from exquisitely bleached Philharmonia woodwinds could disguise for me the lack of inner warmth.

Turning to Mahler, I was immediately struck by Sinopoli's acute understanding of the sound-world. The darker side of the composer's nature was here vividly pro-

pressive martial percussion, sour woodwinds and tellingly exposed details such as low register trumpets and halfhearted cello glissandi all contributing strongly to the impact.

Similarly the second movement, "Stormy, with utmost vehemence," reads Mahler's direction and again the assault on the senses, the hysteria of it all, was entirely apt — whiplash, strident and hammering on to every heavy accent. What Mahler would have given for a first trumpet of John Wallace's calibre!

Thereafter, however, light begins to permeate the fabric of the work and somehow Sinopoli communicates fully the spiritual change of heart. The problematical scherzo sounded phenomenal, its sudden reveries failing to engender that wonderful sense of half-remembered, nostalgic, while the celebrated adagio struck me as over nurtured, strangely chill. As for the finale, it raucously brought the house down. But was it really joyous? Or merely hyper-bellous? I waited for the elation, but it never came.

ST JOHN'S

Hugo Cole

Pay/Sinfonietta

LONDON'S belated discovery of George Kurtag was one of the most exciting musical happenings of 1984, and owed much to Adrienne Csengery's marvellous interpretation of the Messages of Trousova, brief songs of despairing love, with a chamber ensemble centred around the cimbalom. The same singer was at St John's on Friday with another group of songs by Rimma Dalos, again dealing with despairing love, the voice supported by a skeleton band of violin, double bass and cimbalom, whose disparate sounds never merge in reassuring harmony. Odd and often disconnected instrumental gestures seem to reflect disturbed memories and the singer's inability to harmonise her emotions, while the general tenorlessness of sound

places her very much in the foreground of the picture. Yet it is the odd and unexpected instrumentation — as much as the impassioned declamation of the singer (or rather the two in counterpoint) that gives the work its special character. High cantabile phrases on double bass sound almost like parody of singer or violin. The discreetly used cimbalom never assumes the role of the ensemble, but glides the sounds like pale winter sunshine.

A wonderfully eloquent performance with perfectly controlled legato from Miss Csengery was closely supported by Nona Litzman, Robin McGee and Christopher Bradley. The second half brought what was, surprisingly, the first complete public performance of Michael Maw's *Life Studies* for 15 solo strings, a work composed by the composer in certain books of virtuoso studies for solo instruments. In fact, there are few passages of spectacular virtuosity, interest lying mainly in the constant permutations of counterpoint. In Maw's ability to set out the score so that ravishing sounds result.

There is more relatively simple and homophonic music here than in some of the earlier orchestral works. Study 5, built round a swinging pizzicato sole for cello, has some well placed to provide contrast and register from the sensuous mood of earlier movements. Maw saves the longest and most rapturous melody for the expressive Eighth study, though the freedom of movements is not in fact at all for every performance.

Anthony Pay conducted a serene low-key performance perfectly modulated to this resonant building, with admirable and unselfish playing from the Sinfonietta virtuosi, and a few expressive solos well taken.

The programme note for Ligeti's Trio for horn, violin and piano was rather witty and too ingenious in its mention of the valve horn as a combination of several natural horns (what else are the valves for?), while the music was too evanescent to rouse much enthusiasm. The chivalrous tone of voice is engaging, but the composer is mostly satisfied with the spinning of fine words, avoiding all definite or emotive statements.

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WEEK-END PEOPLE

A MUFFLED CRACK was heard this week from within the Labour Party's sanctums. This was not a disgruntled follower shooting himself in the foot, but the report from a starting pistol. Labour's election to the next general election is on and the official pacemaker, at least, is facing in the right direction.

Robin Cook (39) is the Scottish MP for Livingston, unkindly dubbed Neil Kinnock's hair bank while managing the latter's accession to the Labour leadership, who has now shorn his EEC front bench portfolio to concentrate on a Shadow Cabinet role as campaign supreme.

He has been impatiently limbering up for some time. In articles and a personal manifesto to all 650 constituency parties he has castigated Labour's 1983 streak of picking disaster from the jaws of defeat, advocated a shake-up which includes devolution of the party's machinery to strategic areas, part-time agents and a leap into the electronic era.

In the past two years he has been an increasingly visible and upwardly mobile figure, frequently talking the hind legs off Sir Robin Day. He has in fact developed an addiction for horses or, more correctly, horse riding — during snatched family weekends in Edinburgh. He has noticed that the reins merely provide the horse with something to chew on, the brake being applied by "burrowing your pelvis into the saddle".

At his small Westminster office, across a hurdle of papers piled on his desk, I asked whether the reins of his new job would be mastered by a collector with similar disdain. It is to be fervently hoped that he does not laugh while mounted, for it is a frightening sound. The reins are there to get the animal balanced and then you can get it to jump the most things," he said. "I think that's a perfectly fair analogy for the reins of discipline in the party. They're not there to check enthusiasm or to keep momentum, but to make sure we go forward collectively in proper balance."

He is carrying a temporary handicap. Plans to clean the stables at Labour's Walworth Road headquarters are in abeyance until the party leads out a new general secretary on January 30. There is also the potentially nobbling prospect of union ballots on political levies — nearly 80 per cent of Labour's running expenses are met by the unions.

Cook takes the upbeat line that trade union ballots are not an embarrassing irritant but an opportunity to revivify contacts that have been allowed to atrophy. He also believes in taking the argument into camps such as Nalco which have hitherto not been involved in political affiliation. "We could emerge stronger, rather than weaker," he said.

He wants Labour's "war plan" in operation by this summer, after the county/shire elections in May. "We are now approaching the point when the next general election is nearer than the year. The next general election is the mid-term year. The next general election may be only two years away."

His campaign stands on three legs: reorganisation, strategy and a hearts-and-minds battle to win back between 24 and three million Alliance votes. In this, he admits, money is crucial. "The basic financial problem of the Labour Party is that we are not spending enough. What I would like to see — the key to all this — is to have a national membership list. Members of the Labour Party would join their constituency party. They don't join a national party. That does not mean that the centre does not know who they are. Indeed, it is rather curious of the party to pretend to be a national party and then take a perverse pride in not knowing who its members are."

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Such covetousness ill becomes a man who once intended to enter the Church of Scotland. One of life's great false starts, he says. He was born in Bellshill, near Glasgow, spending his first few years with his grandfather, a miner who had been blacklisted for his part as a ringleader in the 1926 General Strike. Unlike his uncle's father escaped the mines by entering university.

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COOK — Labour's problem is that we are not spending enough Picture by Martin Argles

Rough rider on the campaign trail

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I reminded him of Kinnock's hapless interview with Jilly Cooper and his reported remarks that Michael Meacher was "weak as hell." Well, yes, he laughed, that was friction of a different order.

In Labour's grassroots he detects the same impatience for change that he feels with the party machine. Soon, no doubt, he will be gripping it with his knees. If it fails to respond he will be remembered as the horseman of the apocalypse.

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Such covetousness ill becomes a man who once intended to enter the Church of Scotland. One of life's great false starts, he says. He was born in Bellshill, near Glasgow, spending his first few years with his grandfather, a miner who had been blacklisted for his part as a ringleader in the 1926 General Strike. Unlike his uncle's father escaped the mines by entering university.

After a gruelling year as a graduate teacher Cook, like Neil Kinnock, became a tutor organiser in the Workers Education Association. He joined Edinburgh Town Council — "one of the councils that defied the Edward Heath Housing Finance Act for several months" — and entered Parliament in 1974 to campaign for nuclear disarmament.

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THE GUARDIAN

1960

JANUARY 26: John Cole, Labour Correspondent: Press facilities provided at the Royal Free Hospital, London, during Mr. Bevan's illness were withdrawn yesterday after a complaint of "unauthorised attempts to gain entry" to his room.

... It is understood ... that the allegation is that during visiting hours two press representatives made their way to the general ward at the end of which Mr. Bevan's room is situated. When asked what they were doing there, they are said to have inquired for the general ward, and to have gone towards it.

Because they had been asking questions about Mr. Bevan, members of the hospital staff telephoned the administrative office to report the incident, and the two men are then alleged to have left hurriedly. The possibility of a complaint to the Press Council is being considered.

JANUARY 27: London Letter: One of Fleet Street's most widely travelled and highly respected foreign correspondents — his passport is said to be as bulky as the average journalist's briefcase — will shortly be changing his job. Since he left the "Picture Post" and later "Picture Post", both times on grounds of principle, the career of James Cameron has excited sharp interest, and today (January 26) there was much speculation about his plans for the future. One thing is clear, however, and that is his resignation from the "News Chronicle" when his contract expires in the summer will be for "purely personal reasons." He says he will leave the newspaper which he has served for the last eight years on "amicable terms."

Mr. Cameron has always been a deeply committed writer, except perhaps for his youth on a Scottish paper, where he wrote the replies in an "agony" column which appeared under the name of a well-known woman novelist.

JANUARY 28: James Monahan, Ballet Critic: The Royal Ballet, needed "La Fille Mal Gardée" to save the company from the modernism of Jerome Robbins — or so it was said by someone in the audience last night at an interval in the first performance. Whatever the thought of that very world of praise, the fact remains that Frederick Ashton's new version of this most ancient of the barely surviving classics is likely to prove the most successful new production by the Royal Ballet for many years.

... the essential achievement is that of Mr. Ashton alone. He is not one of those choreographers who come to his performers with the ballet ready made; he is one who makes his choreography with his dancers. That is one reason why, down the years, he has been so wonderful a "provider" for Fonteyne — why, too, in such a ballet as "Birthday Offering" he has given to a whole group of ballerinas just those dances which are so exactly suited to each of them.

This, altogether is a ballet for the dancers to be glad about. No male classical dancer, I think, has had such reason for gratitude to his choreographer as David Blair to Mr. Ashton.

JANUARY 30: In his broadcast speech to the nation last night General de Gaulle said he intended to carry through his policy of self-determination for Algeria and would never bow to the demands of the French settlers. The Army's mission did not allow of any equivocation or interpretation. "You have to liquidate the rebel force which wants to chase France from Algeria and impose its dictatorship of poverty and sterility on this country."

"It is me whom all French soldiers must obey. I believe I will be obeyed because I know you, I respect you, and I love you. I have confidence in General Challe, and because, for France, I need you."

DE GAULLE — I need you

preparation of their own cultural mission. For the production at The Place it took three days in Paris, seeing three departments of the Ministry of Culture. In Britain it has taken me 100 telephone calls, 40 letters and six weeks to raise nothing from the Arts Council."

In November of last year she attended a Franco-British cultural thrash at Avignon in the wake of the summit. She brushed shoulders with Mrs Thatcher, Denis Healey, and multinational tyros. "I was representing British culture and I was unemployed."

People is written by Stuart Wavell

Doves who homed-in on war

IT STILL worries Israeli TV journalist Ehud Ya'ari that he might have been able to stop the massacre of Palestinian refugees at Sabra and Shatila 1982. By a cruel irony he was standing outside the camp, ignorant of the slaughter that was taking place within. Simultaneously, the phone in his Beirut flat was ringing unanswered. It was his partner in Tel Aviv who had got wind of what was happening.

His partner, Ze'ev Schiff, was the first to expose the massacre in Israel's prestigious daily paper, Ha'aretz. The military correspondent and the TV Middle East correspondent are now being hailed as Israel's Woodward and Bernstein for their definitive book, Israel's Lebanon War, published this week (Allen & Unwin, £12.95).

Relying almost entirely on documentary evidence of secret meetings and military calculations, the book's theme is that the Defence Ministry, General Ariel Sharon, and the Chief of Staff, General Haim Bar-Lev, hijacked the Israeli government.

"We say the war in Lebanon stemmed from a putsch in Jerusalem," says Ya'ari.

In Jerusalem, where Sharon took over the decision-making process without having to send tanks to Parliament, Ya'ari said, "He found a way to do this through improvisation and the control of information between the military and political levels."

The authors refused a request to give evidence for Time magazine in its defence of the liberal shift brought by Sharon in New York. Ya'ari says they had no conclusive proof of Time's allegation of Sharon's role in the Sabra and Shatila massacre, found false in the trial, although the book records some revealing conversations.

"I could not break Israeli law in an American court," he added.

The unlikely partnership between the two media men began in 1977, when they were both in Cairo covering the Camp David peace initiative. "We are both doves, basically. There was a strong feeling of Israeli conservatism," he says. "I felt

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A pound of miners' flesh

Sir,—Victory over the miners instead of putting satisfaction in Miss Thatcher's cap cannot fail to be a hollow victory, compounding as it must the sense of grievance of men described by Lord Stockton as some of the bravest in the land.

It is unfortunate for the well-being of society that injury and defeat should be so highly prized by those who stand in conflict. When is this endemic and wantonly un-intelligent cycle to be broken?—Yours faithfully,

Bede David.
London SW 17.

Sir.—Consider the position if Neil Kinnock had exercised the discipline he apparently wishes to see in others, and kept his mouth shut. How much would be demanded for a debate on the miners strike.

There would have been reports of the 20-minute suspension of Neil Kinnock. There would have been seen rightly as being reluctant to state their case, since they control the Government. It would indicate weakness and some Labour MPs would have been seen as undeniably active in political life. The following day discussion of the affair would probably have been confined to picket lines, by which the great cause was being attacked.

Neil certainly stopped all that and scored an own goal that has put the spotlight once again on an internal dispute in the Labour Party. Merely because he is a protégé of Michael Foot it doesn't mean that he has to continue the tradition of attacking other members of the Labour Party from the House of Commons.

The leader's strident objection to raising issues in the Commons with some force cannot be one of principle. In 1980, for example, around 30 of us committed the serious offence of impeding the entrance of Black Rod to the Chamber. This certainly distressed the Speaker, it prevented Parliament being closed and forced a reluctant Tory Environment Secretary to give a statement about proposed council rent increases. Neither he, nor Roy Hattersley, raised a single objection at any subsequent Parliamen-

Lastly if we have a speech to the FLP with the deliberate knowledge that it will be fully reported, attacking those members of the FLP who are not on the important issues he must not be surprised if he invites a response from Labour Party members who, like myself, consider that those who promote these issues are wrong.

"My God, Margaret Thatcher could do with an attack like that every day of the week" are words attributed to Neil Kinnock, the then Deputy Prime Minister is extremely grateful for his outburst — Yours sincerely, Bob Croy, MEP.

(Lancashire, Cheshire (Lanc. N.E. Derbyshire), Sheffield).

Sir, — I am pleased to see that in his letter (January 7) James Curran has largely ignored the issue that took up most of his article, namely his criticism of Neil Kinnock for allying with the Right, and the trailing of threats of challenges if he didn't mend his ways.

While I do not subscribe to completely uncritical support for leaders, I do resent the constant criticism of all leaders by many of those who describe themselves as the Left. The constant debilitating attacks from those people and groups inevitably undermines the position of the party in public confidence.

Any Labour leader is of course, likely to face serious loss of public support during an unpopular strike and

most of Neil Kinnock's leadership has been over-shadowed by the coal dispute. Further, James Carr, Dundee, the strike itself has been blighted from the outset by violence and by the failure to hold a ballot. The Labour Party and Neil Kinnock has tried to present the case for coal that should have been undertaken by the NUM and also to pull Labour back from its disastrous position at the last general election.

However, it appears that the hard Left are not concerned about whether the leadership is over-riding the party. They are concerned indeed, if they even be hostile to it. After last week's disgraceful episode we should ask why it is that nearly every time that Labour front benches have been on the ropes, that we have some diversion in the form of an individual or collective constitutional crisis. There are some people, and they are becoming more numerous, who justify these extra-parliamentary theories by preventing an effective parliamentary attack on the

Weekend Money
letters—page 22

the lives of hundreds of
thousands of British
servicemen.

By the time we landed in France the Soviet army had already "torn the guts out of the Wehrmacht" (Churchill, 1944); its airforce was almost nonexistent, and much of its army was actu-

ally horse-drawn. The Russians thus saved Britain from a slaughter rate on a par with the first world war. For proof, look at our war memorials (for both wars). Then look at *these*.

No nation acts altruistically, but to ignore the enormous Soviet contribution on this occasion to our survival and national welfare, is as mean and petty as it is falsifying. — Yours faithfully,

Vic Jones,
34 Templecombe Way,
Morden, Surrey. 3

Sir,—The purpose of this letter is not to continue the

The suggestion that the second world war was made possible because of the German-Russian pact of 1939 has been refuted by such famous fellow-travellers as Winston Churchill.

The documents show that Chamberlain was unwilling to take the Russians into an anti-Hitler anti-aggression league; there is that infamous sea voyage of a medium-level civil servant to Leningrad to conduct negotiations for Whitehall when every hour counted.

A cartoon by Harrison depicting three academics in traditional gowns and hoods. The academic on the left looks concerned. The middle academic holds a book that reads "THAT'S NOT A DOCTORATE". A speech bubble from the middle academic says, "We need a bit of new blood...". The academic on the right looks thoughtful. The signature "Harrison" is at the bottom right.

fact that this Prime Minister, when secretary of state for education, virtually single-handed saved the fledgling University Grants Commission from abolition. He has consistently been a staunch supporter of the science budget, and his election to the Royal Society has increased the public appreciation of this eminent group of her contribution.

As readers of the *Guardian* and my *Cambridge Chronicle* colleagues, however, I am not noted as a serious inquirer, or even mildly uncritical Conservative back-bencher of Mrs Thatcher's. I am a happy man to give priority to higher education by this Government (even though it is considerably higher than its

If Congress were to reject this proposal it would be seen, and rightly, as a tawdry political stratagem, deliberately planned to embarrass the Prime Minister. It would be shameful, as well as silly.—Yours faithfully,
Robert Rhodes James, MP.

Miscellany a li


Sir, — Richard Norton-Taylor's piece (January 24) reminds me of an incident in the early sixties when I was a member of GCHQ. When I was being re-positive vetted, the security officer who interviewed one of my character referees was much bothered that I had been, for three or three years, for

1945, a member of the Labour Party.

My referee, irritated, said: "You are perhaps forgetting that the Labour Party is unlikely to provide the next government of this country" — whereupon the officer sadly folded his papers and brought the interview to an end. (But I wasn't sacked!)

— Yours faithfully,
Ann Cunningham.
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

ould be stirred



with falling rolls, empty classrooms and the possibility of further teacher unemployment, have persuaded the vast majority of children are ready for infant schooling at four. And with the restriction of an annual intake, they can simply to parents that they would be unable to let their child fall behind.

The teachers and administrators may be relieved that almost 70 per cent of four-year-olds are in infant schools;

Sir, — It is interesting to note from your Leader of January 18 that one of the reasons for increasing speeds on motorways is because the police are unable to enforce the speed limits.

On February 8, 1934, Mrs. Lynda Chaiker, Minister of State for Transport, said: "The coach and lorry speed limits were to be increased, and the Government authorities stated that the police had been given up trying to enforce limits."

policies which have been increasingly advocated as potential aids to reducing the level of road violence.

These are primarily the promotion of better public transport to reduce the overall number of vehicle miles travelled; the creation of a decent electrified rail system which could offer an alternative to the car on the road; and a review of the laws which allow the majority of motorists responsible for injury or even

death to get away without driving much as a suspended driver.

- Of course, the committee did refer to the appalling violence caused in part by the drinking of alcohol by drivers, and the low level of law enforcement. It could hardly do otherwise. Nor would one expect radical solutions to be suggested as one of its recommendations could well be of great assistance.

But what really rankles, apart from the committee's failure to suggest a total self-regulation of speeds in cars, is the way the burden of responsibility for violence is being shifted to the victim.

What do we see in the report? Laminated wind-screens and rear seat belts.

for those in cars — and reflective material for pedestrians, and crash helmets for cyclists. But then, if you accept violence in the first place, your attempt to achieve road safety will inevitably be a pathetic rear-guard action. — Yours sincerely,
Robert Davis

97 Bryan Avenue,
London NW10.

than usual

said, they are probably in-
sured against that sort of
thing.—Yours sincerely,
Roger Eise.
Milton Keynes, Bucks.

Sir,—I found Waldemar
Januszczak's article on Bob

Geldof (January 17) both patronising and insulting to a man who has been instrumental in raising £8 million for famine relief in Ethiopia, and in giving much-needed publicity to the cause. Mr Januszczak was obviously more interested in the safety-pin holding his trousers together.

Surely Geldof's "loud and rather unsavoury phrases" in the rather unsavoury circumstances were apt. Punk diplomacy? — with

A COUNTRY DI

MACHYNLLETH: I have happy childhood memories of sailing on seaside holidays by

train from Birmingham to North Wales. The high spot of the journey was always the wide waters of the Severn estuary. I remember the view. The trains no longer ran down the valley to Birmingham, but the last five miles of the track along the estuary are the same. I took the footpath. For a couple of hours the other day I wandered through a quiet landscape of meadow and water with mountains in the distance. The only train I saw was a ghost train. I have memories of other rural railways now defunct. There was the one that went from Aberystwyth to Llanwrthwl. Its trains ambled gently and stopped at every tiny station, and the journey was

Sir, — Having failed miserably in the public debate on rate-capping, abolition and local democracy, it seems the Tories are turning to dirtier methods of propaganda in their campaign against Labour local



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Sir,—I've just been shown a series of strip cartoons by Steve Bell from your paper of a couple of weeks ago, depicting myself and my colleagues as a bunch of pigs. Well Well! who would have thought that the Guardian was harbouring a genuine, old-fashioned male chauvinist pig in its ranks? As a result of these cartoons I found a chance to post out his frustrated soul, from its tight little pink skin against a woman far better female than any of the pigs I have spoken decent, middle-class liberal, reforming ideas—and actually having lots of babies!

It is enough to make a cat laugh, let alone a pig. At— Yours faithfully,

Mr S

Sir, — Sir Clive Sinclair may have built a symbol for this decade to rival that of the Titanic in another. Oh, it'll take you to school, children (assuming mummy, children, daddy, and daddy's daddy even take you to the Job Centre and DESS. But don't count on it having enough speed to win the race for a job interview).

For the people it might have proved useful for the elderly, the disabled, etc. are precluded by the ludicrous Mach 2 fighter. "Bye-bye, sir," driving (sliding) position. Yours faithfully,
Clive Wilkinson
Sotthull, W Midlands

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MACHYNILETH: I have

especially enjoyed by both
singing and bird watchers
and wild flowers. The
narrow line that followed the
narrow valley of the River
Wye for miles, yet somehow
it was to be quite unob-
trusive, for the fact that
the sandpipers left the river
to nest on the railway banks
Then there was idyllic
Seven up through the woods
of the forest, nest in the
to the Valley of the Ches-
through miles of cherry gar-
chards white in blossom
There is a vast literature
about the scenery, much of it
technically, but I wish
someone would write some-
what the passengers used to
see from the windows. This
might give us quite an origi-
nal slant on the countryside
of years.

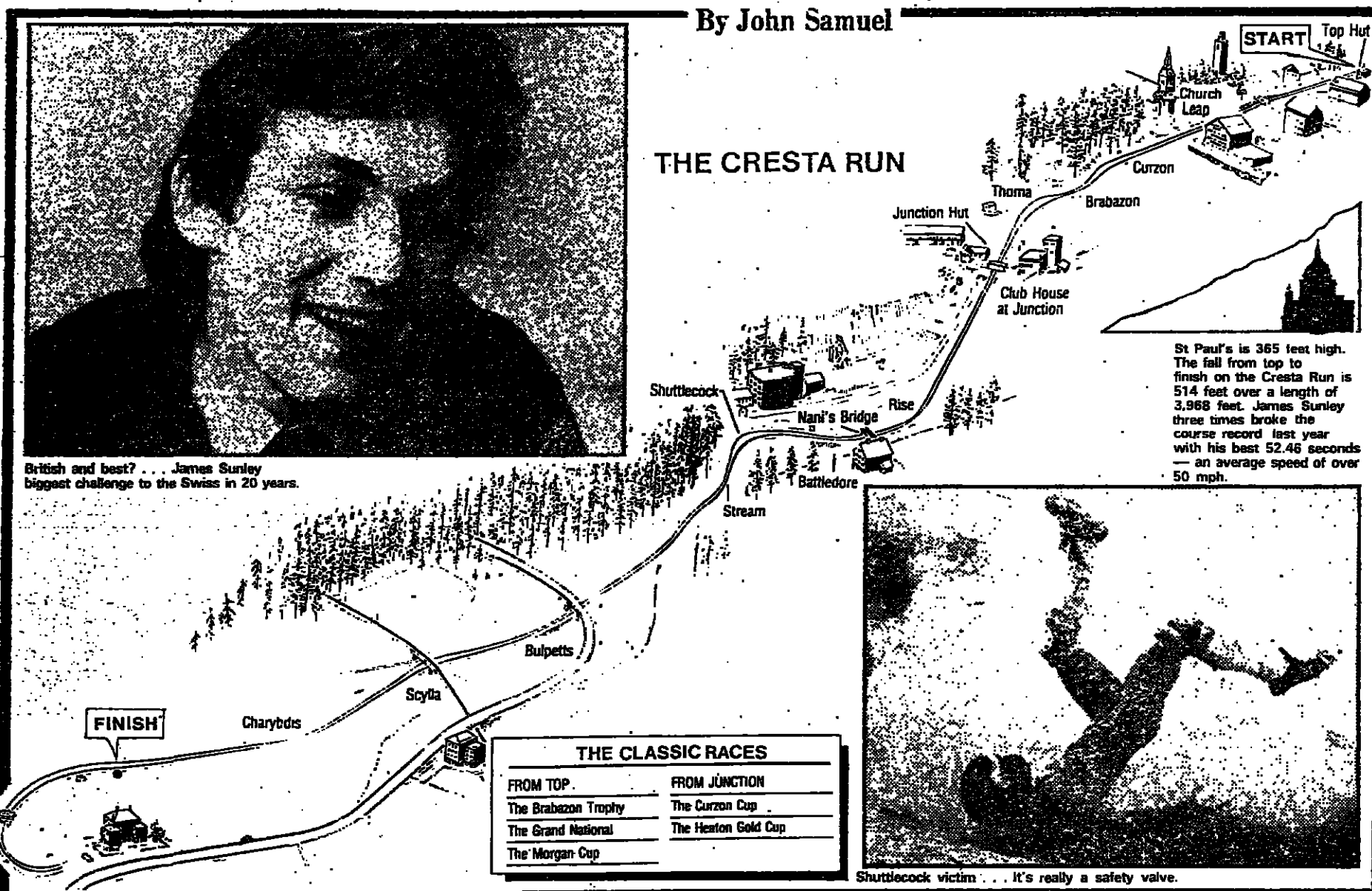
5' ago.
WILLIAM CONDEY

WEEKEND

SPORT

Cresta crown prince

By John Samuel



British and best? ... James Sunley biggest challenge to the Swiss in 20 years.

THE CLASSIC RACES

FROM TOP	FROM JUNCTION
The Brabazon Trophy	The Jubilee Cup
The Grand National	The Horton Gold Cup
The Morgan Cup	

Shuttlecock victim ... It's really a safety valve.

how. On Wednesday February 12, just before the Grand National I'd cracked a runner and I was slow. I thought, 'Amazing. I'd knocked one and a half seconds off my personal best. The next week it was hard and cold. They were making the Saatchi & Saatchi film, which I suppose helped for the atmosphere. It all added to the pressure, specially waiting for the bloody helicopter. Anyway, the day before the race it was, I fell straight out. Inevitably.'

In the race itself Franco Gansser won, but only by 0.51 seconds from Sunley. Next came the Sachs Buntan, an event where a rider counts two out of three times. Sunley was suddenly in with the course record—32.46. Gansser came roaring back with 31.75, still the record, but Sunley had his four 52s running, three times a record. 'It's going to be a little different this year', he said. 'Last time I didn't have anything to prove. Now the pressure is on. The run is different every year. There are a lot of very good Swiss. But if I had to put my finger on any one thing I've got now I'd say it's confidence. I'll be really working on the knives.'

Much has changed on the Cresta. 'I've even seen changes in the three years I've known it closely', said Sunley. 'For one thing, it isn't for the rich any more. You're quite a few Brits back and they're not just the wealthy. Anyone can turn up and ride. You've just got to show a bit of form on and off the course. Talk to a few people. Turn up when you're supposed to and don't mind waiting around a bit.'

Toboggans no longer have sliding seats. Riders wear skintight suits and shoes without rakes. There are new positions on the toboggan—the Kamikaze and the Grasshopper. But still you must never complain if you're out your sack and into the straw at Shuttlecock corner inside 20 seconds. The 120 degree corner, the most famous on the course, is to quote Sunley, 'only a safety valve.'

'Cresta riding is really like a motorway. Your nose is four inches off the ice, maybe 80 or 90 mph. But you're looking 40 yards ahead, not out of the side windows. If you can't see Shuttlecock then you won't make the bends lower down where it does matter. You're in good hands.'

There have been only four fatalities in a hundred years. One of those was when a workman left a board on the ice. Another time there was a goat on the run. Then a horse. It was immediately made an honorary member. British eccentricity dies hard in the heart of Alpine Europe.

Matthews Engel on the cricket writer's India on page 15. Patrick Barclay's Soccer Diary on page 14.

ONE HUNDRED years from the days when four mad dogs of Englishmen and an equally crazy Australian created the Cresta Run by trudging up and down a snowy hillside at St Moritz in handbagged feet, another mad dog, disguised as a London surveyor, in the next few weeks hurries down the world's most famous ice slick with a simple aim: 'I want to put an Englishman back on the Cresta map.'

James Sunley, 22, a couple of years down from Oxford, left his slide-rule in his Stratton Street office last weekend for six weeks of adventure on the Cresta. His particular target is the most prestigious of the Cresta Classics, the Grand National, a fortnight today. No Briton has won it since RAF test pilot Colin Mitchell in 1955. Its reclamation would be no less than a cricket triumph in India.

The Cresta has a unique aura and mystique, and an imperial past to compare with New Delhi's British visitors, mostly tubercular and asthmatic invalids, discovered in St Moritz 'a little jewel in the silver cup' in the 1890s. It was the Cresta, though, that established a worldwide winter sport reputation not simply for St Moritz but for Switzerland.

Davos and St Moritz in the early years vied for tobogganing honours. The Swiss at that point only saw the toboggan as useful transport for the postman, or to amuse the children. Robert Louis Stevenson was among the first to discover the joys of tobogganing in Davos. The British in St Moritz, accustomed to racing down the village street, responded by building their own run, only to lose their first team event to the Davosers.

The entire Swiss population (about 250) turned out, but did not know whether to be sad or sorry. 'The whole village seemed to sense that something rather special had been started', Roger Gibbs, the President today of the St Moritz Tobogganing Club, remarks. 'His delightful beak, the Cresta Run 1885-1888.'

The Cresta today is not so far different from the original. Simply, it is sinuous ice chute down a steep gully through 10 banked corners, euphemistically named Battledore, Shuttlecock, Leap and so on — past the tiny hamlet of Cresta to the village of Celerina. It has two starting points, Junction and Top, the former for the early part of the season, and Top, which brings an extra breath to the stomachs of the hardest riders, when the season grows brilliant and hard in late January and February.

Quickly the run drew aristocrats and their ladies. The Honourable Francis Curzon, full-sized football this figure, brother of the illustrious George Nathaniel, who took off for the Engadine to heal

a weak spot in his left lung, included in his travelling essentials quills, ink pot, penwiper, WC paper, cork-screw and wine bottle cork. For the next 20 years, using his essentials in no particular order, he was effectively viceroy of the Cresta.

It was an aristocratic image which Lord Brabazon of Tara helped maintain. As the Americans moved in the Heaton brothers, Harry Hays Morgan, Billy Fiske, later to die in the Battle of Britain — Brabazon stiffly objected to an American proposal for an international championship. 'The Cresta is unique', let us not invent rivals.

Women, at one time joyful riders of the run, were banished supposedly for medical reasons after one competitor died of breast cancer. The Cresta and bob runs were built annually each side of the Celerina road. Both attracted the rich and the glamorous, but the Cresta many was the purest of sports — dangerous like a

beautiful woman, according to Brabazon, 'but with this cynical difference, to love her once is to love her always.'

The immediate postwar years saw the Swiss begin to inherit the run. The British won an Olympic bronze through John Crammond in 1948 but even the 10-shilling subscription was a deterrent in those impoverished post-war years. Nino Bibbia, an Italian who kept a grocer's shop in the main street, became the Cardinal of the Cresta. The first hint of a sharp frost and Nino slammed the shutters on his lettuce and carrots and was down breaking records. Age is still no deterrent. Bibbia in his sixties won a competition last season.

The British influence waned on the Run if not in its administration. The early post-war Services successes, by Mitchell in particular, were overtaken by a Swiss presence on the Sun-stroked terrace of the Kulm Hotel. The V form regulations of



the Sixties and Seventies meant a dwindling British presence on the Sun-stroked terrace of the Kulm Hotel, traditionally the gathering place after the morning's run. The classic trophies now until the goalmouth is covered. Though it is lovely to watch it does not bring goals.

Twice, a young British Army officer, Jonathan Woodall, went close in the Grand National, once losing by four-hundredths of a second, another time by five-hundredths, in the aggregate of three runs. Gansser now has won three of the last four Grand Nationals. At last, though, an Englishman has come forward to break the massed Swiss ranks of the top 20.

Young James Sunley, encouraged by his father John, of the construction family, a modestly good performer, had his first ride at the age of 17 five years ago. 'It was a pretty inconspicuous start. I managed to break a wrist.' He took a couple of truant weeks from Oxford, where he was reading geography at Oriel, and got himself a £15 fine. 'The vice-provost congratulated me on my work and for doing something for my country. It wasn't really fair. For one thing I was an amateur and in any case I was riding for myself.' His first ride lives in his

memory as with everyone who has launched himself down the Cresta's icy throat. 'I'd never even driven a car, only a bike. There was no sensation of speed, or being in control of speed. I didn't know how to swear. But there was all this graffiti streaming out of my mouth. I couldn't believe it. If Sunley swears now it is by the people who control the run.'

His degree course finished he made straight for the Cresta last season. Lt Colonel Digby Willoughby, a retired Gurkha officer, grey at the temples in a style Ealing Studios sought to echo for decades, took him on as an administrative assistant in a control room much like a temporary RAF tower in World War II. Essentially it meant 133 rides last season, 80 from Junction and 53 from Top.

Oversteering from Top he fell eight times. 'I was really making it, but I had very much to learn but I knew I'd find it some-

'Mr Soccer' at 70 — sorcerer supreme of a lost era

AT FIRST glance the idol of a generation of schoolboys who kicked around the back streets and wasteland of football this figure, just after the second world war hardly looked the part.

He ran with a slight stoop, the legs were bowed and his shorts flapped around his knees like two white ensigns. Yet for the lad who gained momentary possession of a tennis ball or, if he was among the lucky ones, the soft, wet puddling of a rain-soaked football, this figure represented soccer's ideal.

Up and down the country small boys shuffled up to their opponents, stopped, showed them the ball and tried to point out why while intending to dart away to the other. More often than not they fell over their own feet but if it worked once then, in the imagination at least, another Stanley Matthews had been born.

In six days' time Sir Stanley Matthews will celebrate his seventieth birthday. He now lives in Burlington, Canada in an apartment overlooking Lake Ontario and the occasion will be marked by a banquet at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto. A number of Matthews's contemporaries have been invited including his partner in the Blackpool attack Stan Mortenson.

Sir Stanley Matthews will celebrate his 70th birthday in Canada next Friday. David Lacey examines the Matthews mystique

another four back at Stoke where, with the acrimony of his departure in 1947 forgotten, he helped his old club regain their place in the First Division.

To understand what Matthews meant to the game it has to be appreciated that he played in an age when to a great many of his admirers he was just a name they read in the newspapers or heard on the radio. On odd occasions tantalising glimpses of his skills might be seen in a black-and-white newscast but even the television of his greatest moment, the 1953 FA Cup Final, looks pretty crude now.

There was a mystique about Matthews which would not be possible today when his best moments would be played back and analysed over and over again. To watch Matthews you queued for three hours and spent another two waiting on the terraces for the kick-off. When he had the ball you stood on tip-toe and craned your neck to catch the delicious moment when the full back sent the wrong way.

As Geoffrey Green of the Times wrote: 'Matthews was the Pied Piper supreme of his day. He belonged to the nation as a whole. He was Britain's most valuable and treasured export and woe betide any full-back who resorted to cruel, rough or unethical means to stop him. At once such a player became the enemy of the people, even though he might prove to be the left-back of the home side.'

The popular idea of a winger has not changed that much from Alex Jackson to Tom Finney, Bryan Douglas, Peter Thompson, Terry Paine and, latterly, Steve Coppell and John Barnes. There have been wide variations — Finney was a regular goal-scorer, Coppell doubled as an inside forward or even a wing-half and at Watford Graham Taylor wants Barnes to be involved in every aspect of the game — but these are still players who can go wide, take on defenders and get their crosses in.

What made Matthews unique was his ability to stop the play while he outwitted an opponent. Geoffrey Green has described him as 'the greatest dribbler, the most superb ball manipulator in the whole history of the game' — a pre-Best, pre-Pele sentiment but no exaggeration at the time.

There has always seemed to be a conspiracy between the ball and Matthews's feet, to meet at some given point of time. Green added:

J. P. W. Mallalieu, a Labour MP and erudite writer on football, asked: 'Have you ever watched a dragonfly, how it hovers in one spot with its wings vibrating and then apparently without changing gear, darts away at top speed? Many times I have

seen Matthews, the ball as ever at his feet, hemmed in by a watchful opponent. There has been no room to move so Matthews has honed, his whole body vibrating, while his opponent watched. Suddenly Matthews has made his dart to the right and his opponent has darted with him. It is only seconds later that we and his opponent see that Matthews has in fact darted to the left.'

Matthews himself explained his art more succinctly: 'If I can show the man tackling me the ball by taking it close to him and then whip it past him, causing him to lunge, when he thinks he has cornered me, I will soon have caused an inferiority complex from which my opponent will not easily recover. A successful dribbler must develop a superiority complex in his own mind.'

Over-indulgence in his dribbling skills was one of the most consistent criticisms that Matthews encountered, and the accusation that he always wanted the ball passed to his feet and was not prepared to run and

feet let alone tackle back to win it. Charles Buchan, the former Sunderland, Arsenal and England forward who wrote for the News Chronicle for many years and later founded Buchan's Football Monthly, admired Matthews but had to admit that 'he often delays the final pass until the goalmouth is covered. Though it is lovely to watch it does not bring goals.'

Matthews always denied playing to the gallery: 'I was used to being acquisitive off it and it has to be said that when invited to appear in testimonials or charity matches Stan did not come cheap. But in view of what he would have earned today such criticism seems carping especially when it is remembered that he appeared before the largest audiences that will ever watch League football in England and was still only earning £12 a week.'

Among the professionals of that era Finney tends to be more highly regarded. Certainly he would have found less difficulty adapting to the demands of the modern game. Matthews would not be able to bring play to a

halt nowadays. The full-backs are quicker, physically and mentally, than the old wingers used to be. During Matthews's time the right-back playing behind him, Jimmy Armfield, demonstrated the then novel ability to support an attack which showed the way football was going and if you were a sorcerer still had any doubts the club signed a copper-headed sprite called Alan Ball who informed him that when he was passed into space, or the wing it was his job to run and get it.

On a spring afternoon in 1963 a crowd of more than 65,000 crammed itself into Stamford Bridge to see Chelsea play Stoke in a crucial Second Division match. Most went along thinking it would be Matthews's last appearance in London. He looked incongruous in a shiny black and a T-shirt. Nothing happened and Tommy Dochow's hard-eyed young Chelsea players gave him no time to dwell on the ball.

Even so he made another 10 League appearances, his last, against Fulham on February 6, 1965, some 3 months after he had become the first professional footballer to receive a knighthood. The match was played five days after his 60th birthday and he had broken Billy Meredith's record to become the oldest first-class player in the game.

Next Friday he will have many memories but for most of his admirers that moment at Stamford Bridge when he wore his way back to the Bolton defence for the last time to lay on Blackpool's winning goal will remain the most precious of all. True, Blackpool, 3-1 down with 30 minutes to go, owed their recovery as much to Eric Taylor's passes and the injury to Eric Ball, Bolton's left-half, that made the task easier. But it was Matthews they chaired off the field.

THE WIZARD AT WORK ... Matthews leaves Redpath and Cox of Scotland trailing in 1951

RUGBY UNION
David Frost
Barnes
back for
Bristol

STUART BARNES, the England stand-off, yesterday passed a fitness test on his troublesome ankle and will play for Bristol today in their John Player Cup third round tie at Leicester. Peter Pollock, the Bristol wing forward and captain, has also been passed fit after his groin strain.

This is the outstanding tie of the round because both clubs have been playing well this season and because their Cup records over the last six years make them two of the top three or four clubs in the country. Leicester won the Cup in 1979, 1980, and 1981 and were in the final again in 1983.

Leicester, who approached their best and most fluent form against Bedford last weekend, will today be without Barry Evans who has to attend his graduation ceremony at Derby. Kevin Williams switches from the left to the right wing, allowing Rory Underwood, the England wing, to return on the left. Bristol's only doubt concerns Nigel Pomphrey, the lock whose wife is expecting their first child. He will travel with Bristol but is prepared to return home at a moment's notice.

Rob Andrew, due to play at stand-off half for England against France at Twickenham next weekend, will have a fitness test this morning on his twisted thigh and groin strain, deciding whether to play for Nottingham in their home tie against Northampton. Brian Moore, Nottingham's hooker, yesterday passed a fitness test on his sprained ankle. If Andrew is not fit in time, Simon Hodgkinson will move from full-back to stand-off, and Martin Drane will return at full-back.

The weather has forced the postponement of three of the most interesting ties of the third round — Headingley v. London Welsh, West Hartlepool v. Moseley, and Blackheath v. London Welsh. The kick-off in the Liverpool v. London Welsh match has been brought forward to 10 o'clock. Wakefield have now arranged a match at Moseley for today.

Sale confidently expect their home tie against Aspinwall to go ahead. They have had to make a last-minute change because Rob Stevenson, their wing forward, is injured. His place goes to Niall Gaffney, formerly captain of Clontarf, who has played for Leinster but whose only previous game for Sale was in their second team.

Maurice Colclough, the former England and Lions lock, will be in Wasps' side for their home tie against Rosslyn Park, having recovered from a hand injury. Colclough will also play tomorrow in Wasps' Middlesex Cup match against Richmond at the Athletic Ground.

Richmond today have a Cup tie at Kingsholm where Gloucester should win, as should Harlequins at home to Ealing and Bath at home to Bath. All the other ties look evenly balanced.

Today is also the date for the third round of the Schweppes Cup in Wales. Here a junior club is bound to reach the last eight because two of them, Rummy and Seven Sisters, meet this afternoon at Rummy.

John O'Driscoll, the Ireland and Lions wing forward, has recovered from pleurisy and plays his first game of the season for London Irish tomorrow at Sunbury against Hartlepool. However, Hugh Condon will be at stand-off half for the Irish for the first time since breaking a hand in September.

Blackheath and London Welsh, whose Cup ties have been postponed, have agreed to meet tomorrow at the Rectory Field.

STUART BARNES... passed fit

BADMINTON: Two famous partnerships have reached the point of no return as England seek the formula to stop the Chinese winning the World Gold Medal in the women's doubles again this season.

Gillian Gilks and Karen Beckman, who hold the title, are almost certain to be separated. That means Vera and Gill Clark will need to do well in the semi-finals in Tokyo today. The future of England's other leading partnership, Martin Dew and Steve Baddeley, is also in question, despite their efforts in reaching the semi-finals in the men's doubles semi-finals against the top seeds.

John Rodda
Bolder Budd
may match
Finch's best

ATHLETICS

Zola Budd's first competitive appearance on an indoor track went off without a hitch last night in the National Indoor Championships, sponsored by Fearr Assurance, at RAF Cosford.

A crowd of fewer than 2,000 saw something of Budd's power in the 1500 metres when she accelerated to the front with five of the 74 laps remaining and immediately began to build on her lead. She won in 4min 21sec, a modest time by any standards and over ten seconds slower than the fastest time ever recorded on the Cosford track.

It was a cautious run but she could hardly have had an easier initiation, for there were only five runners in her heat and three qualified for today's final.

She said afterwards that she felt perfectly comfortable, and there was no damage to her feet — she ran without shoes — and that she now had the confidence to go to the front in today's final, so we might be in for a treat.

She said that she felt that indoor racing was very little different from outdoors "but you tend to get confused with the laps".

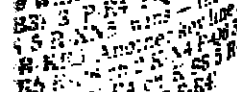
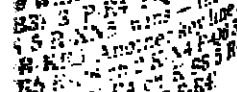
She did not seem absolutely comfortable on the hands although that was not her opinion — but when it comes to greater speed she may just have difficulty in cutting her stride. However there are unlikely to be any problems for her this afternoon and, at the very least, she should be within

Lloyd lifts title

SQUASH RACKETS

David Lloyd, tipped to become Britain's first world champion, gave another impressive performance last night to win the Blue Stratos British open Under-21 title at Marlow.

In a surprisingly one-sided final, the 19-year-old from Birkenhead, who has won the title in 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 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Alan Rusbridger

nomination by the submission of an identical twin. But neither familiarity nor multiplicity has produced compulsion let alone contempt. For another two weeks my farthest horizon is painted yellow. Then, with any luck, half of the form will be given back to me to keep like an indenture. As long as my portion matches the Sparkbrook Labour Party's piece I shall have a political leasehold on the constituency, renewable, though not automatically renewed, in five years' time.

admirer about the editor (a woman) who had made Saulius' first book so successful. In this earnest group, remarked to each other that beneath their stern black skirts, as long as it was riding habit, Mrs. Greener wore a flash of red velvet stockings.

I asked Margaret Drabble (who is also Mrs. Holroyd) if Oxford Companion to English Literature, of which she is the editor. She had it when coming out in April. And said she didn't want to do it at all; like 74 per cent? She said she was. She was very pleased. Oxford said the very first price was £15.00. It was expected to last one year. The cover price is £15.00. That out in royalties and it certainly is pleasant. Besides, she said, she was going to write shortly was the best literary news of the evening.

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Dear Maggie... don't blame it on blacks, women or the lack of National Service



SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

DEAR MRS THATCHER, I was particularly annoyed by some of your recent excuses for your record on unemployment, and thought that as with the NUM, you might prefer to have my ideas on paper. Your remarks during your interview with Sir Alastair Burnet on Thames TV Eye this Thursday were not only demonstrably wrong, but also deeply divisive and objectionable.

I am sure that any economist in your confidence would also disagree with what you said — and if you don't believe me please ask Sir Terence Burns or Sir Alan Walters. On this issue economists speak with a surprisingly united voice.

My objection is to your point about why Britain's unemployment is higher than the Continent's. You seemed to blame this entirely on the fact that we have not got conscription, and that we have not sent back our immigrants, unlike West Germany. With these propositions, you fell squarely into what Mr Samuel Brittan calls the "lump of labour fallacy", and you must also have created a good deal of private hurt, unwittingly perhaps, amongst the many immigrants who were probably watching.

The "lump of labour fallacy" is wrong because it assumes that there are a fixed number of jobs to be done, so that if one person takes a job, another person must lose one. In reality, of

course, increases in the population from whatever source do not only increase the supply of labour but also increase the demand for it. There are more mouths to feed and more spending to be done — and more jobs too.

If the "lump of labour fallacy" were true, the increase in the labour force in Britain from 124 million in 1981 to 264 million in 1981 would have been accompanied by a 14 million rise in the number of unemployed. Fortunately, unlike West Germany, we have not had such a dramatic drop: in fact, they rose dramatically.

If it was a lack of conscription which was responsible for our high unemployment, how is it that the same lack of conscription in the sixties and early seventies allowed us lower unemployment than other countries which had it? And are you really suggesting that the 100 Gujarati Mr Patel who are now reported to be millionaires would, if they or their forebears had been ex-

cluded from Britain, have been replaced by Mr Smiths instead? Or would we merely have fewer millionaires, employing fewer people?

It is indicative, surely, that the country with the fastest falling unemployment is the United States, whose population increased by more than 10 per cent over the last decade in part because of Mexican "wetbacks" crossing the Rio Grande.

Let me put this point in even more personal terms. As you may know, one of the main reasons why the British labour force has expanded for a century, despite setting European records for emigration in almost every decade, is the large influx of women into new jobs.

Since the Second World War alone, women have accounted for 34 million of the 44 million increase in the working population and you are, of course, a prominent example of the trend (though not, as my wife says, always a happy one). It is quite possible that

unemployment would fall disproportionately if you were to vanish from the labour force, but this would have absolutely nothing to do with the direct impact of your retirement. For years many other women have taken up jobs without increasing unemployment and have left them without reducing it. And living standards are a good deal higher for their effort.

Let me make one final point before turning to something else. If you are still unconvinced that the growth of the working population is unrelated to the level of unemployment, let me point out that even if it were, it would not explain Britain's relatively high unemployment rate, which has come about since 1979.

As the National Institute's Economic Review put it in August last year, Britain since 1979 has had the lowest working age population growth rate of all 24 OECD countries except Belgium and Sweden (their

The real reason why we have so many unemployed, as you must well know, is because you — and, to be fair, other premiers too — are dead set against using any more civilised measures to control inflation.

Of course, I understand your reluctance to admit to what you are really doing. Following your great interest in the 1944 White Paper committing governments to full employment, you have also probably looked up Lord Keynes' excellent advice to a well-known Chancellor in 1931.

In "The Economic Consequences of Mr Churchill", Keynes wrote that: "We ought to warn you that it will not be safe politically to admit that you are intensifying unemployment deliberately in order to reduce wages. Thus you will have to share what is happening to every conceivable cause except the true one." This is one piece of Keynes' advice you seem to be following to the letter. But there are, neverthe-

less, excuses and excuses. By effectively blaming immigrants, you encourage even odious racist in the country to think and argue the same. Such a use of the "lump of labour fallacy" will also, of course, encourage the all-too-many British luddites who for similar reasons believe that new technology destroys jobs.

There isn't a given lump of labour, and nor is there a given lump of output to be divided up amongst those who want to produce it. Unemployment is not due to women, or blacks or, to our lack of conscription.

You were also on pretty thin ice in your reply to Sir Alastair Burnet about investment being lower than anyone else's. True, private investment is now at a record by British standards, as is Gross Domestic Product and car sales (though I thought that at least a bit rich on your part given your Chancellor's views about high real wages causing unemployment). However, the claim is not as impressive as it sounds. The

British economy has grown since the Second World War in every year except six — a third of them under your stewardship — so you will notice that you are not alone among past Prime Ministers in being able to claim such records. Indeed, the whole thrust of your case in 1979 was that Britain, despite its record-breaking performance by historical standards, was nevertheless falling behind internationally. That relative decline has sadly not diminished.

You certainly managed to flummox your recently knighted Sir Alastair, but surely you have now had enough Treasury tutorials to take on someone with a bit more bite? On the other hand, I suppose one doesn't knight people for bite.

With best wishes. If I think of any less unpleasant excuses for unemployment I'll let you know. Perhaps you could get Sir Terence or Sir Alan working on it. Yours sincerely,

Christopher Huhne

Manufacturers deficit grows sharply despite fall in sterling

Miners knock trade surplus

By Christopher Huhne, Economics Editor

Britain's trade in goods and services with the rest of the world showed a surplus of £193 million in December which helped push the current account surplus for the whole of 1984 up to £196 million. Department of Trade and Industry estimates showed yesterday.

The deficit in manufactured trade which first appeared in 1983 grew to £292 million in 1984 from £237 million the previous year as imports rose sharply and our own industrial companies only just held on to their market share in rapidly expanding world markets, despite previous falls in the pound.

The tiny surplus on the current account, which adds earnings in services such as tourism and shipping to goods, was

a marked decline from a surplus of £224 million in 1983. The deficit in manufactured trade was the worst performer since 1979, when the balance showed a deficit of £525 million. The deficit on imports and exports of goods alone was £413 million, the worst figure since 1974 which was also hit by a miners' strike.

The deficit in the figures is hardly reassuring for those who argue that Britain will have considerable problems in filling the hole in our trade as North Sea oil production and exports begin to run down. Treasury's revised prediction in November of broad balance.

Officials estimate that the deficit on trade in goods was increased by £270 million by higher oil and coal imports as a result of the miners' strike, though the symptoms of an underlying deterioration in the performance of most sectors except oil are also clear.

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should not have been distorted by the miners' strike, which rose by 94 per cent though the composition of the increase leaves some hope that this is not entirely due to the consumer binge which increased the volume of finished manufactures by 14 per cent. Capital equipment import volume was also up 12 per cent.

The figures for December show that exports of goods (including oil) reached a new high of £6,907 million while imports reached their second highest figure of £6,907 million. Total exports in 1984 were £80,625 million and total imports were £81,730 million. Oil exports were £14,874 million and oil imports (of heavier grades than the North Sea's) were £7,707 million. Manufactured exports were £46,508 million and imports £50,429 million.

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Opec 'news' hits pound

By Peter Rodgers and John Hooper

THE extreme sensitivity of sterling to oil news was illustrated in New York markets last night when sterling plunged at one point to \$1.1650 because of apparently inconclusive remarks made by Sheikh Yamani about the Opec meeting in Geneva on Monday.

Sterling recovered little from its low point but was still trading below its London close of \$1.1132, which was 0.53 cents down on the night before. Dealers said it was reacting violently in very thin markets.

The pound also reached a new all time low in its Bank of England sterling index against a basket of currencies, which dropped 0.1 to 70.6 per cent of its 1975 value.

Quite why the markets should have reacted as they did was a mystery. Sheikh Yamani said reporters that the Opec conference would aim to leave the average price of its crude oils as it was "so as to keep the present benchmark unchanged."

The Saudi Oil Minister was speaking on his arrival in Algeria and his remarks were clearly intended to soothe the feelings of those Opec member nations, such as Algeria, who are opposed to cuts in the organisation's benchmark or marker price.

He added that the price gap between the higher priced light grades and the lower priced heavy ones was too wide and reiterated his view that it would have to be narrowed by a cut in the price of light grades rather than a rise in that of heavy grades. Such a realignment could, in theory, cause problems for the competitors of Britain's own, mainly light, crudes. But the oil which competes most directly with that from the North Sea, Nigerian Light, is already selling at a hefty discount.

Gains in London against continental currencies such as the German mark were lost by the finish, with the German mark falling a penny up, and rising further in New York.

The Stock Market was encouraged earlier by the signs of easing interest rates and the prospect that the Government would routinely beat the miners to show sharp rises in leading shares. Stores and financial companies, including clearing banks, moved up, with the FT 30 index, which had been climbing steadily all day, went back past the 1,000 mark to close 11.1 higher at 1002.8.

According to the official Algerian news agency, Sheikh Yamani was "bearing a message for Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid from King Fahd."

Algeria, in common with Nigeria, refused to sanction the compromise on oil prices hammered out at the conference which would up shortly before the New Year. Under the compromise, the price of extra light crudes, such as those produced by Algeria and Nigeria, was to be trimmed by 25 cents, while the heavy and medium grades were increased by 50 and 25 cents respectively.

Prestwick reels as CAA rejects Highland Express

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Plans to revitalise Scotland's Prestwick airport have been dealt a severe blow after a decision from the Civil Aviation Authority to reject proposals for the launch of a new out-price transatlantic airline, Highland Express.

Prestwick has turned down applications by Highland Express to begin flights from Prestwick to New York and Toronto in North America and Maastricht in Holland because it was not satisfied with the new airline's finances.

Highland Express responded last night by promising to seek a High Court judgment on Tuesday that the CAA has no powers to reject the airline's application on financial grounds.

Randolph Fields, head of Highland Express and former

founder of cut-price rivals, Virgin Atlantic, says the company will challenge the CAA ruling on the grounds that the authority has misinterpreted aviation law.

Mr Fields, who claims the airline is backed by £40 million of finance, says there is a "genuine doubt about" the law governing the financial soundness of airlines. "If it had applied when Virgin Atlantic was licensed, Virgin Atlantic would not be flying today," he said.

The CAA rejected Highland's application because it was not satisfied the firm's resources and financial arrangements were adequate. However the CAA admitted that the Highland Express proposal was "imaginative and innovative."

The CAA ruling will come as a severe disappointment to

the Scottish lobby which has been pressing for extra traffic to be passed through Prestwick in order to safeguard the future of the airport.

Prestwick's future has been in serious doubt since British Midland Airways applied to switch its flights to Glasgow in a bid to link up with increasing flights from the Highlands and Islands. Other airlines threatened to withdraw from Prestwick if BMA transferred its operation and Transport Secretary Nicholas Ridley is considering its long term future.

The CAA recognised the special circumstances surrounding Prestwick's future, but the authority was not prepared to grant the license until Highland Express could assemble its financial backing. But Highland said it could not properly assemble the full backing without the CAA license.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dunlop plan by BTR

BTR, which has the power to block the financial reconstruction of Dunlop, has begun negotiations with the ailing rubber group's banks to win their support for its alternative £33 million bid for the company. One of the leading banks described the situation as "still very fluid" last night. BTR's offer document for Dunlop is expected toward the end of next week.

MR KEITH Willis, head of Lucas Electrical, has abruptly left parent company Lucas Industries after working for it 25 years, for the past two in this crucial post. Mr Marcus Balfour, general manager of Lucas Electrical and Electronic Systems, the company designed to take Lucas further into up-market vehicle components, also left this week.

ONE OF the two men chiefly responsible for the recent revival in fortunes of Belfast shipbuilders Harland and Wolff died yesterday at the age of 42 after a short illness. Sales and marketing director Mr Ken Ruddock played a large part in the sales drive which has landed work worth £150 million within the past 12 months, leading to the current work in hand of more than £225 million.

BPS American subsidiary, Sohio, yesterday reported fourth quarter earnings of \$390 million — 10 per cent down on the same period last year. The company's net income for the year was \$1.49 billion compared with \$1.51 billion in 1983. But Sohio's chairman, Alton Whitehouse, said that when exceptional items were excluded from the accounts, fourth quarter earnings for 1984 were 22 per cent lower and the full year's earnings 9 per cent down.

National Savings rate raised

By Margaret Dibben, Money Editor

A new, higher rate, National Savings certificate will be available shortly together with increased interest rates paid on the other National Savings accounts.

The new 30th issue National Savings certificate will pay an average 8.55 per cent tax free over five years compared with 8 per cent on the current issue. The 29th will be available until the new certificates come on sale on February 13.

From today the Yearly Plan, already paying a high rate of return, will give an overall tax free amount of 9.25 per cent over seven years, 0.22 per cent more than the old rate.

The next increase takes effect from February 1 when the General Extension Rate, the rate of interest paid on earlier

certificates which have already matured, goes up from 8.35 per cent to 9 per cent. Three days later the 19th issue certificate, the most successful ever for National Savings, reaches its fifth anniversary, putting at risk several hundred thousand pounds.

National Savings Extension Rate and the new 30th issue are designed to keep 19th issue money with the Department now that the rival banks and building society rates have improved, although with 8.75 per cent tax paid available from most societies on money which is only tied up for seven days, only the extension rate looks attractive.

A week later on February 8 the investment account receives the biggest boost with a full 1 per cent added to make 12.25 per cent before tax.

On March 13, after the statutory six weeks' notice, period, the income bonds and deposit bonds will gain 0.75 per cent to 12.75 per cent gross.

Holders of maturing 19th issue certificates who want to receive the extension rate need take no action but if they want to switch into the 30th issue they will have to cash in and rebuy.

The basic terms for the 30th issue National Savings certificate will be the same as for its predecessor: the maximum investment for each person is £5,000 being sold in £25 units. After five years, one unit will be repaid at £38.21. The interest rate after the first year is 6.76 per cent.

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Founder made £6m from Inmos

By Peter Large, Technology Correspondent

The American microchip designer Paul Schroeder has made around £6 million from his involvement in the British start-up chip company Inmos.

Mr Schroeder, who now runs a microelectronics consultancy in Colorado Springs, where Inmos has its US headquarters, agreed with the broad figure last night, though he said he had not worked it out in detail.

Thorn EMI, which bought the Government's 76 per cent holding in Inmos last summer, had announced the result of its offer to buy the remaining 541,409 shares held by the company's three founders and staff shareholders.

Holders of 494,415 shares decided to receive an amount of £7,834 million, and that includes the 300,000 shares held by Mr Schroeder. Holders of 106,994 shares decided to receive 494,446 Thorn EMI Ordinary shares instead.

This means that Thorn EMI now holds 83.9 per cent of Inmos. Eight per cent remains in the hands of the two other founders who are still the Inmos bosses — Dick Petrick, the veteran American micro-electronics entrepreneur, who runs the US operation, and

part of the Revenue certainly involves a departure from the proper performance of its functions," the judge said.

The ruling is likely to relieve some of the anxiety about the future of ICI's own Wilton petrochemicals complex on Teesside, which employs 900 people, Wilton must use expensive oil to make products because the Thatcher government abandoned the North Sea gas gathering project which would have brought cheap ethane to all UK plants.

Mossmorran's ethnic advantage was redoubled by the tax subsidy and ICI warned Wilton that it would have to pay for its own plant at Grangemouth to ethane, also benefited from the tax subsidy.

The High Court judgment yesterday not, however, final. The Mossmorran project is about to go into production and it is highly likely that an appeal against the verdict will be lodged.

ICI also argued that the tax subsidy which was drawn from the 1982 Finance Act, had breached the fair competition clauses of the Treaty of Rome. Mr Justice Woolf rejected ICI's appeal, the EEC, saying that the Government's behaviour was "justifiable" under the European statute.

ICI would have preferred a complete victory, but it will still go back to the courts within four to six weeks to seek an order requiring the Inland Revenue to raise its ethane tax price.

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Putting on a new complexion

By Tony May

The ever-changing Sangers group is taking on a new complexion with the acquisition of US cosmetics company called Paveon. The new group is stepping down to the US and raising £27.6 million.

Paveon is a private company which has grown from a profit in 1980 of \$80,000 to one of \$2.2 million last year with 25.7 million forecast.

Sangers' colourful major shareholder (48 per cent) the Bermuda-based ex-fringe banker Tom Whyte has put the deal together over the past year and will become deputy chairman responsible for US operations.

Sangers has been reducing its losses for some time but will now be able to offset some £1.25 million of tax losses against Paveon's results over the coming years. The deal will cost £15 million initially with the rest linked to profits.

To fund the deal Sangers' chairman John Briggs says the group is "structuring the deal to give the maximum benefit for the 3,000 loyal shareholders who have stayed with Sangers over the last three years."

This means a scrip issue of one-for-two on the shares — currently suspended at 45p, followed by a rights issue asking them to stump up £18.4 million. The terms are nine-for-eight at 33p while another £9.2 million will be raised through a loan stock issue.

Names may move against managers

By Mary Brasier

A steering committee representing names on the 895 share losses of £20 million meets on Monday to decide whether to take legal action against the syndicate's managers Spicer & White.

The names, who include sporting stars Mark Cox and Virginia Wade, were warned earlier this month that they may have to find at least £40,000 each in May to fund the syndicate's mounting total of claims. Members writing an average £20,000 of business have already paid out £20,000 to meet losses incurred through bad underwriting.

Writes against the managing agency Spicer & White whose ultimate owners are the Willis Faber group were prepared last year but shelved. But since the publication of a new report detailing how 895 losses have accelerated from an estimated £13 million to £20 million, there have been renewed calls for action.

Some names feel there is also a case against Lloyd's itself, which has so far stood back from the affair, saying the dispute is between members of the syndicate and Spicer & White. But it is now being argued that Lloyd's should have monitored the rise in syndicate 895's premium income and stepped in to prevent overwriting. Members of the syndicate claim that the policy of Lloyd's policy holders is at risk because of the market authorities' oversight.

Powell falls 7p while Hanson puts on 10p

By Our Financial Staff

While the board of Powell Duffryn was stoutly maintaining the tide was turning in its favour against the Hanson Trust bid, Lord Hanson said that his offer would lapse on Tuesday if he did not win by then. The market reacted by sending the Hanson share price, Powell's shares fell 7p to 431p on the day and Hanson's rose 10p to 343p valuing his offer at 457p a share — 22p above the Powell market value.

The Hanson camp was quick to exploit this with a letter to shareholders which also argued that nine weeks ago the Powell board was clearly expecting profits for the full year to be lower.

Powell meanwhile argues that Hanson's "take it or leave it" bid is "looking increasingly cheap against all the fundamentals."

Buy-out hits snags

By Michael Smith

Shipyard workers at Yarrow on the Clyde and Hall Russell in Aberdeen are being urged to make up their minds quickly on proposals for a £30 million employee buy-out.

Barclays Bank, which has put together the £30 million package, says the deal will be withdrawn unless they make up their minds by next Tuesday.

A statement said that 98 per cent of the 750 employees at Aberdeen had voted in favour of the plan, but union opposi-

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Coming to the rescue: will the insurance companies listen to the clues for help? (Picture by Don McPhee)

You may be worried about burst pipes, loose tiles, and gale-blasted chimneys. But the biggest headache for the insurance companies is subsidence. Margaret Dibben reports that more claims mean higher premiums while David Worsfold discovers new ways to pay old debts

Catalogue of disasters

A THAW is a relief after the freeze, but it does show up the cracks. When the water pipes freeze, the floods begin to flow. And, just as you thought a claim to your insurance company, you will quite likely find that the rates have gone up. There is a general move towards increasing premiums by 10p for every £1,000 insured.

However severe this winter might have felt to you, the insurance companies are not ready to panic yet. They have become resigned to the changing weather patterns which mean that bad winters happen more often.

The worst problem for them has been subsidence, which is accounting for between a third and a half of all claims in a year when the 1983/84 winter storms had already created a high level of damage.

Most insurance companies say it is still too early to assess the burst pipe and flooding levels but the Eagle Star says that the initial signs foretell an horrific amount of damage, particularly in the West Country. Unusually this

year, Yorkshire, Wales and the North-east have escaped the worst of the weather.

Insurance companies have had to put on increasingly more over the past few years. One reason is that policyholders are more claims conscious than ever before and are claiming for more small items than they used to. An older generation would have taken false pride in not having to make an insurance claim.

The British Insurance Association says that in 1979 one in every ten policies produced a claim; but in 1983 this had fallen to one in every seven policies — an increase of 30 per cent.

As well as a larger number of claims, the winter storms of 1983 and 1984 cost a lot of money. The average winter weather claim is around £200 or £250 and, in the last ten years, problems with subsidence have caused many of them.

Subsidence became a popular topic after the dry summer of 1976 when many householders discovered the perils of clay soil drying out rapidly

and then swelling when the rains eventually came. Last year the dry summer again created serious subsidence problems.

But not all the subsidence faults showed up at once and policyholders are still claiming for damage and cracks caused as long ago as 1978. Buildings that may have got away with small cracks in 1976, could have shown more serious cracking in 1984. Not every crack can be blamed on subsidence and, if you feel tempted to try it, the insurance company will want to check the building before settling any large claim.

There is not much you can do to safeguard your property against subsidence — but you can against burst pipes. Most important, if your water has frozen, do not try to unfreeze it quickly with a blow torch. You stand a better chance of avoiding a cracked pipe if you thaw the pipes slowly, perhaps with a fan heater.

While the insurance company is happy for you to have emergency work done immediately before they sanction the claim, to prevent

even more deterioration, this does not extend to consequential repairs. For these you must get estimates.

So, even though the high cost of subsidence repair and damage caused by the recent sharp spell do not alone worry the insurers, the cost of buildings insurance is going up this winter.

Legal & General, Royal Insurance, Sun Alliance and Commercial Union are raising their premiums from February 1. While insurance on house contents is highly competitive and rates vary from company to company, the picture is just the opposite with buildings insurance. The experience of all the insurers, they claim, is very similar and so are their rates. The rate for insuring your building at present is £1.50 for every £1,000 of cover. The new rate is £1.60.

Eagle Star is putting up its charges from April 1 but the Guardian Royal Exchange, Prudential, Norwich Union and General Accident have no immediate plans to charge more although, now that their

competitors have moved, they are thinking about it.

The Zurich Insurance company alone charges just £1 per £1,000 of insurance cover. They do this by imposing this rate only on properties unlikely to suffer either subsidence or flooding; they charge £1.50 for those that do. Consequently nearly all the property on their books is less accident prone and the business is, unlike the competitors, profitable. They are, however, looking at their charges now that increases are taking place.

And more bad news is on the way. There is a high chance that building insurance rates will go up again in 1986.

IF YOU pay your building insurance through a building society, you will pay at the same rate as if you went direct. The only difference might be that some societies impose a management charge if you choose not to use one of their panels of insurers.

But, at the moment, there is a bit of a row brewing between insurance com-

panies and building societies. Some societies are claiming to take credit for the fact that building insurance rates went up by only 10p per £1,000; if it hadn't been for us using our muscle they say, there would have been a bigger increase, probably to 17.5 per cent.

Other societies have not yet agreed to impose the increase and are still arguing the point with each separate insurance company.

What is upsetting them is that some insurance companies have suggested the societies might take just a little less in commission. At present the building society gets 40 per cent of what you pay in premiums; insurance companies would rather pay 30 per cent.

This business is worth millions of pounds each year to the building societies.

In a few years' time, when building societies become more commercial operations, insurance broking is going to be one of the most popular activities. They do not want to see their commission eroded.

Margaret Dibben



Lindsay Cook on disasters and how to guard against them

Playing safe with gas

A RECORD number of suspected gas leaks has been reported in the wake of the Putney explosion with service engineers turning out to find and repair leaks or to locate the cause of the smell, be it rotting cabbage or a cat.

But who pays? In most cases it's British Gas, but the cost of parts and labour can be charged to the customer in some circumstances.

Any leaks on the street side of the meter are down to British Gas. But repairs on the house side of the meter, which take longer than half an hour to complete and cost more than £150 in parts and materials, are charged to the householder. British Gas says that most leaks require little in the way of materials and are often completed within 30 minutes.

When they are not, the labour charge is worked out at an hourly rate, which varies in different regions. At North Thames, the minimum charge is £14.25 and this would be made if a repair took five minutes more than the free time and up to half an hour extra. At 45 minutes the cost is £18.00 and the first hour costs £21.85. In addition, parts have to be paid for.

Some elderly and disabled people can have free safety checks of their gas appliances, if they are worried about them, but they must live alone to qualify. Those over 65 living alone, and registered handicapped living alone, can apply to their local showrooms for a free safety check. A couple of pensioners in their eighties living together would not qualify.

British Gas recommends that central heating boilers and gas fires should be serviced once a year and other appliances should be checked every two years. They offer a series of service agreements, ranging from the basic one-star servicing of a gas fire and back boiler, (£20.70) to the three-star fully comprehensive insurance, (£30.00) for a domestic central heating system. This costs £52.00 and covers the annual service, and any repair or replacement needed.

In between is the two-star agreement at £28.01, which is for central heating systems and covers servicing and adjustment; there are no labour charges for repairs but replacement parts have to be paid for. There is also a two-star plus, which covers parts and labour for a central heating boiler and associated controls, but not for the rest of the system.

British Gas are very safety conscious and have spent some £1,320 million replacing mains pipes and the services to three and a half million homes, completely fulfilling the recommendations of the King report, made after a series of explosions in 1977. Sniffer vans are also employed during the night patrolling the streets, all over the country, to detect gas escaping. The work has to be done at night because during the day their sensitive apparatus can react to car fumes.

All British Gas service engineers are trained to City and Guilds standard and attend refresher courses once a year. They also take part in an annual safety competition. It was another gas explosion in 1970, Ruman Point, which led to the setting up of the Confederation for the Registration of Gas Installers (CORGI). The national director of this voluntary body, Mr George Banks, would like to see their powers extended so that all people installing gas appliances need a licence, as they do in America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and France.

Laws covering gas safety say that only "competent" people should install or service appliances and a maximum fine of £2,000 can be imposed where this law is broken, but Mr Banks complains that this law catches up with those not competent to do the work they undertake only after an explosion or a death.

CORGI has 10,000 companies registered and in addition to checking the work of anyone who applies to join the confederation, aims to check a sample of their work every year.



The number of people showing an interest in my savings has increased by 50 per cent over the last two years...

This might be more often if the confederation receives complaints from customers. About a dozen companies are expelled from the register each year for bad workmanship and a further 300 are expelled for failing to maintain their public liability cover of £200,000.

"We check this each year and there are always some that fail to renew their insurance cover," said Mr Banks. "We want the public to tell us about any problems with our companies, but our concern is that we don't have enough teeth. We think registration should be compulsory and that all engineers should have the proper training for the types of appliances they are installing."

Lists of CORGI gas fitters are available at all gas showrooms, libraries, stores selling gas appliances and Citizens Advice Bureaux. Register Gas point out that while gas leaks and explosions are obviously concerning consumers at present, it has 16 million customers and experienced just 65 explosions in the year ended April 1984, a considerable reduction since the recommendations of the King report had been implemented.

How to take cover and pay for it once a month

RARE indeed are genuine innovations in the world of general insurance. Rare still are innovations that emerge from the notoriously conservative offices of Lloyd's.

Remarkably, one far-reaching innovation started with a firm of Lloyd's brokers unknown outside the insurance industry — Nelson Hurst and Marsh. Their idea was to devise a monthly insurance policy covering a wide range of personal insurance requirements, up to 10 different areas, which had no renewal date. Those of you who already pay some of your insurance premiums in

monthly instalments might be tempted to say "So what?" This policy, however, really is different.

With a monthly instalment plan, you get your annual renewal notice for, say, your house contents insurance, see it has jumped up again to £150 and throw your hands up in horror. You might shop around only to find that the only companies offering cheap policies are ones that you have never heard of. You then turn to the leaflet that came with the renewal notice and find that you can pay by monthly instalments and, trying your best to ignore

the 5 per cent or 6 per cent charge (equivalent to about 14 per cent annually), you sign up to pay by instalments. Next year you go through the whole thing again.

The monthly policy from Nelson Hurst and Marsh — now followed by a similar policy from National Employers Mutual Insurance — is just that: insurance bought and paid for on a monthly basis. No large annual renewal premium, no charge for paying monthly and added flexibility to vary your cover month by month.

The ten sections of the policy called Select and Pro-

tect are Buildings, Contents, Legal Liabilities, Accidental Death, Total Disablement, Small Craft, Caravans, Horses and Ponies, Legal Expenses and Motor. The only requirement of the policy in terms of the type of cover taken is that each policy must include one of the first two sections.

Policyholders must also be householders with current bank accounts because cover for all the areas selected is paid for in one monthly premium by variable direct debit. The NEM plan has fewer areas of cover, there is also a motor insurance-only monthly policy available

from Swinton Insurance, a chain of brokers based mainly in the North.

All insurances are insured at Lloyd's except the legal expenses cover for which Nelson, Hurst and Marsh went to specialist legal expenses insurers, DAS, now owned by Sun Alliance. Costs are competitive without being cheap and the cover offered is, on the whole, better than average.

The cover selected at the outset will continue until policyholders notify Nelson Hurst and Marsh, by telephone if they wish, that they wish to alter it. The new cover will apply from the date of the next monthly premium and the direct debit will be altered accordingly. When a premium for a section is to be increased, NEM will notify the policyholders that their direct debit will be changed and leave the onus on policyholders to contact NEM to say they wish to amend or cancel policies. Herein lies the major catch with the monthly premium concept: inertia.

One of the attractions of these policies to the insurance companies — and several major insurers are considering following NEM's lead — is that without a huge annual

premium to terrify them, policyholders will let the policy roll on hardly noticing the odd monthly increase, although with ten different insurances rolled into one contract it is possible that there could be an increase in ten months of the year.

This could turn out to be a problem, especially with only one or two currently on the market. Comparison between a monthly policy and a standard annual premium contract will not always be easy, especially if you take the extra charge for paying an annual policy by instalments into account.

While the idea of one insurance package has considerable appeal, it is quite possible that the price of one section might get out of line with the rest of the market and that clients would stick with the package because they like the cover they are getting under some of the other sections.

The monthly concept breathes convenience — and that has to be welcomed — but for many of us inclined to laziness in such matters it might also have hidden dangers.

David Worsfold

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£18,342

The pension plan you chose could have made this much difference.

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The independent magazine *Planned Savings* most recent survey of 20 year regular premium with profit pension policies showed the Equitable Life Pension Fund at £42,095 to be once again among the best, 22% higher than the average of our competitors.

One of them produced as little as £23,753. £18,342 is quite a difference.

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The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, 4 Coleman Street, London EC2B 2JT. If you would like further details on your Self-Employed Pension Plan, write to: Equitable Life, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. (UK residents only.)

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel. (Office) _____

Date of Birth _____ Tel. (Home) _____

Founded 1762 GRASS

The Equitable Life

The oldest mutual life office in the world.

Handwritten signature: "M. J. M. J."

Unit Trust choice simplified

Most successful investors start with a clear idea of whether they want income or growth or a balance between the two. Individual unit trusts can meet each of these requirements, but the problem is knowing which to choose from over seven hundred unit trusts.

Before making an investment in a unit trust you should expect the managers to tell you how well it has performed over the long term. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective. New funds or funds which suffer a change of management are more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record.

We are currently offering three M&G Funds which satisfy the three requirements of income, growth, or a balance between the two. Each has a performance record demonstrating the success of M&G's investment policy over many years. As an incentive we are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more.

Unit trusts are for long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. This is because the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

An investor of £10,000 at the Fund's launch in May 1964 has seen his income after basic-rate tax grow from £396 in the first full year to £2,018 in 1984.

By contrast, a building society investor's annual income has fluctuated, rising from £536 in 1965 to £1,200 in 1980 and then falling back to £853 by 1984. So anyone who depended on a building society for income has suffered a cut-back over the past 4 years, whilst Dividend Fund investors continued to enjoy a steadily increasing income.

In addition, the Dividend Fund investor's £10,000 had grown to £54,300 by the end of December 1984 compared with £27,271 from a similar notional investment in the FT Industrial Ordinary Index and £10,000 in a building society deposit which, of course, remained unchanged.

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment, because we will continue to make income growth the prime objective. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and the aim is to provide a high and growing return with a yield about 50% higher than that of the FT Actives All Share Index.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE of £10,000 invested in income units at the launch of M&G Dividend Fund on 5th May 1964, compared with a similar investment in a Building Society.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '64			£10,000	£10,000
1965	£396	£536	10,200	10,000
1970	463	850	10,760	10,000
1975	828	871	16,300	10,000
1980	1,660	1,200	24,280	10,000
1984	2,018	853	54,300	10,000

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Dividend Fund income figures are 1% above the average of the rates offered in each year (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Dividend capital figures are all realisation values.

On 23rd January 1985 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were: Income Accumulation Yield Dividend Fund 302.2p 839.5p 5.35% Recovery Fund 241.6p 302.0p 3.75% SECOND General 526.1p 597.9p 3.76%

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price and an annual charge of up to 1% of each Fund's value - currently 1.2% - plus 1% is deducted from gross income (currently 1.2% for Dividend and 1.5% for Recovery and Accumulation). Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for Income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

	Dividend	Recovery	SECOND
Distributions	15 Jan	20 Feb	15 Aug
	15 July	20 Aug	15 Aug

Next distribution for new investors 1985: 15 Jan 1985, 15 July 1985, 20 Aug 1985, 15 Aug 1985. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Penetration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. The Trustee for Dividend and Recovery is Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wider-range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Tel: 01-626 4588. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

M&G SUNDAY TELEGRAPH UNIT TRUST GROUP OF THE YEAR

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched. The table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth over the long term. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '69	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1970	11,760	8,570	11,020	11,058
1975	26,400	11,121	21,283	16,178
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175	25,521
1984	214,720	39,977	52,405	36,769

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Recovery Fund figures are based on an extra interest account offering 10% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for growth of both capital and income and has a 26-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies, which are kept under constant review.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1960	19,534	20,080	11,293	12,483
1965	31,947	26,230	13,492	16,093
1970	47,537	30,540	17,143	21,636
1975	81,843	39,620	33,107	31,651
1980	200,813	61,600	62,494	49,931
1984	463,879	142,410	81,519	71,938

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Second General figures are based on an extra interest account offering 10% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. All applications received by 5th April 1985, will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of your choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable or Accumulation units will be issued) at the price ruling on receipt of the application.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY. A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

	DIVIDEND (MIN. £1,000)	RECOVERY (MIN. £1,000)	SECOND (MIN. £1,000)
	£ -00	£ -00	£ -00

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

Banking on a budget bargain

HOW CAN you avoid paying for cheques, direct debits and cash dispenser withdrawals when you are overdrawn? This is not a trick question, needing specialist knowledge. The answer is a budget account.

The name budget account does not sound very exciting but hidden under this label are some very shrewd banking bargains. Each bank tends to offer a rather different package of facilities and not all of them are equally attractive.

Budget or revolving credit accounts are designed on the simple principle that most people will be in credit some of the time and overdrawn at others. In addition, bills may bunch together making it difficult to make ends meet at certain times of the year. The solution is an account which rewards regular savers with a guaranteed loan at preferential rates. In this context "preferential" means cheaper than a personal loan but usually marginally more expensive than an overdraft. Most, but not all, banks pay a reasonable rate of interest while you are in credit.

The table shows the latest interest rate structure of budget accounts offered by Britain's eleven banks. The Yorkshire withdrew its version as it proved unpopular with customers. As you can see costs vary quite widely and three banks, the Co-op, National Girobank and Royal Bank of Scotland do not pay any interest when you are in

SAVE AND BORROW ACCOUNTS			
Bank	Account	Credit % gross	Debit % APR
Bank of Scotland	Scotplan	7.5	23.1
Barclays	Cashplan	10	20.25
Clydesdale	Personal Credit Plan	6	16.9
Co-op	Budget	NII	26.8
Lloyds	Cashflow	9.5	21.5
Midland	Saves and Borrow	8.5	22.7
National Girobank	Flexiplan	NII	19.5
NatWest	Budget	Fixed charges: £35 for first £500, then £7 each additional £50	
Royal Bank of Scotland	Budget** Moneyplan	NII	18.1
		TSB	5

*Credit rate as at February 12, 1985. Debit rate as at February 18, 1985.

**Flat rate as interest is charged in same manner as an overdraft.

Plus 1 per cent management fee up to £7.50 per quarter.

credit. Watch out also for Royal Bank of Scotland's additional charge based on the amount you expect to borrow. This is a flat 1 per cent per quarter the maximum charge per quarter is £7.50.

NatWest stands out with a different charging structure assessed as a flat fee depending on how much you anticipate borrowing. There is no interest charge as such, so this compares very favourably with the other budget accounts, especially when rates are at their present levels. Under the NatWest system, you work out your annual bill and divide by 12 (or 13 for weekly standing orders if you wish).

You then agree to transfer a fixed amount each month equal to one twelfth (or one thirteenth) and the bank agrees to meet all the bills as they fall due. The charge is

simply £35 for the first £500 worth of loan plus £1 for each subsequent £50. So if you expected to have bills totalling £1,000 in a year you would pay £45. The bonus with this account is that if you are clever you can use it to avoid going into the red on your current account and therefore cut down bank charges.

The other account which can save you bank charges is Clydesdale's Personal Credit Plan which works in tandem with a current account. Again you do your annual sums and work out how much you need to save each month. Then the bank will automatically top up your current account when necessary, based on 30 times your monthly payment. This will stop your current account going overdrawn and pushing you into charges for all your transactions.

Do watch out for bank charges over and above the interest on these accounts. The banks argue that customers cannot have their cake and eat it. The cost of earning interest while in credit is offset by charges, usually in excess of that on current accounts, for various transactions.

Charges: Bank of Scotland: 10 free cheques per quarter, then same as for current account. Barclays: 40p per debit. Clydesdale: none, linked to current account.

Co-op: none. Lloyds: cheques, standing orders 40p; direct debits 30p; cashplan 30p per day.

Midland: standard current account charges. National Girobank: none.

Royal Bank of Scotland: none, apart from 1 per cent management fee.

TSB: cheques 40p; standing orders, direct debit 40p; Speedbank 30p.

The banks which do not pay interest when you are in credit are those who do not charge every time you write a cheque. Remember you pay income tax on interest received but pay for charges out of taxed earnings.

So the best account will depend on your banking habits and how often you will need to use the loan facility. The Clydesdale borrowing rate has been consistently cheap and compares favourably with current overdraft rates which vary between 14 per cent and 17 per cent at present.

YOUR MONEY LETTERS

answered by Margaret Dibben

Progress so far

I TOOK out a policy when my son was born a year ago to provide school fees in ten years' time and some life insurance. I preferred the Crown Life policy to others because of the clear way it was set out, and the salesman. But I never seem to get Crown Life among the top performing trusts. What do you think of their performance? G. W., Taunton.

THE league tables you are perhaps concerned about may be those of straight unit trusts - the best performers usually being high risk investments starting from a depressed level over a given period.

Crown Life is a well-managed company whose managed fund in which your contributions are invested, has a good track record over eight years with, like other investments of this type, a few hiccups in between. It is in the top quartile of performance. Whether, in the period of your particular investment, it does better or worse than comparable funds, only time will tell.

THE reply last week to G.F., the teacher from Wendover, could have added that, if G.F. was paying additional contributions to the Teachers' Super-annuation Scheme, a worthwhile thing to do, *Capital 374* "Purchase of Post Added Years" from DES, D Mowden Hall, Darlington DL3 9BG, gives the details. M. W. Goddard.

THE address given last week for Woodhead-Faulkner, publishers of *The Stock Market*, was unfortunately an old one. They are now at Fitzwilliam House, 32, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1QY.

NEW from Nationwide FleetBond

A UNIQUE SAVINGS PLAN WITH IMMEDIATE LIFE COVER

The new FleetBond from Nationwide is a 10 year savings plan with special tax advantages. Produced in conjunction with Fleet Friendly Society and Midland Bank Group Unit Trust Managers Limited, the special tax advantages and immediate life cover of the FleetBond make it a most attractive investment.

How FleetBond Works

The Nationwide FleetBond is a unique savings plan. Half your savings go into a special Nationwide account and the balance is used to buy units in Midland Bank's Income Unit Trust. The Friendly Society link means that 50% of the tax normally paid on building society and unit trust interest is reclaimed, giving your savings a valuable boost. No other savings plan offers the same two-way investment as the FleetBond.

Life Insurance Cover

FleetBond automatically provides life insurance cover up to a total sum of £1500 for those aged 56 or under. There is a small reduction in death benefit for older ages. No medical examination is required.

The Likely Return

If FleetBonds had been available since:

1974 then they would have produced a return of over 15% per annum.

How Much

The FleetBond is a ten year investment in which you save £200 per year. FleetBond gives you the choice of saving annually or from a lump sum of £2000 into a Nationwide account which, in turn, is used to make the yearly FleetBond contributions.

The Next Step

You can obtain full details of FleetBond by completing the coupon or alternatively by telephoning 01-834 9090 any day, any time and we will send you a brochure.

Please note, anyone can open a FleetBond provided they are between the ages of 18 and 68, but you may not hold a FleetBond if you already have a similar policy issued by a Friendly Society.

To: Nationwide Building Society, Freeport, London WC1V 6LA. Please send me details of the Nationwide FleetBond.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Tel No: _____

In conjunction with Midland Bank Unit Trusts

FLEET FRIENDLY SOCIETY

FB 2671

NEW HIGHER RATES FROM 1st FEBRUARY!

9.45% NET

AND ONLY 7 DAYS NOTICE

INVEST MORE	EARN MORE
9.45%	9.20%
9.20%	8.95%

The Triple Bonus Account provides top rewards for investors. No other major building society offers such an ideal combination of really high interest and easy access. The more you invest, the better your deal becomes.

With £1,000 to £4,999 you get a generous 8.95% p.a. (12.79% gross). £5,000 to £19,999 returns an even better 9.20% p.a. (13.14% gross).

And £20,000 or more earns 9.45% p.a. (13.50% gross). Beat that if you can!

Your money is available with no interest loss at only seven days' notice. Or you can withdraw

instantly if you leave £10,000 or more invested.

If you'd like a monthly income at the same high rate, ask about the Triple Bonus Income Account. With 160 branches around the country, there's a Bristol & West branch near you with all the details. Or write (no stamp required) to:

Bristol & West Building Society, (Dept TB) FREEPOST, PO Box 27, Broad Quay, Bristol BS99 7BR.

BRISTOL TRIPLE BONUS ACCOUNT

Bristol & West BUILDING SOCIETY

Authorized for investment by Trustees. Assets exceed £1,900 million. Member of the Building Societies Association. Net interest is paid annually and is tax paid at the basic rate. Gross rates are equivalent for basic rate tax payers. Interest rates and terms may vary.

Head Office: Broad Quay, Bristol BS99 7AX. Telephone: (0272) 294271. OVER 160 BRANCHES FROM PENZANCE TO ABERDEEN.

£20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st January 1985 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £7,196. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £15,320, an extra £8,124.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit Trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic-rate tax. Further details of the Funds and

WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £20 A MONTH BY 1st JANUARY 1985

	5 YEARS (Jan 1980 to Jan 1985)	10 YEARS (Jan 1975 to Jan 1980)	15 YEARS (Jan 1970 to Jan 1975)
Amount paid in	1,200	2,400	3,600
M&G Dividend	2,289	7,513	16,705
M&G Recovery	1,913	8,446	22,734
M&G SECOND	2,039	7,262	15,320
FT Industrial Ordinary Index	2,160	6,143	11,259
Building Society Savings Account	1,499	3,840	7,196

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic-rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are "bid" prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

the rules of the plan are available on request. All the Funds are wider-range securities and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts - 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually (currently limited to 3%) for management. There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan.

You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty.

The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the "offer" price and sell at the "bid" price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN

The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

TO: M&G SECURITIES LTD, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ (min £20) each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund checked.

AMERICAN & GEN. INTERNATIONAL
AUSTRALASIAN JAPAN & GEN.
COMPOUND GROWTH MIDLAND
DIVIDEND RECOVERY
GENERAL SECOND
GOLD SMALLER COs

The units will be registered in the name of M&G Securities Limited and held for your account under the rules of the plan.
If the Savings Plan account is being opened for the benefit of a child, please fill in here the full name of the child.

I understand that further subscriptions can be made at any time (minimum £20) and that I can realise my holding on any business day without penalty at the bid price ruling.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Bankers Order do not detach from ENROLMENT FORM

Please pay to National Westminster Bank Plc, 191 Woodhead Street, Chelmsford CM2 0LN, Account No 56713370 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNT), quoting Account No (leave blank) the sum of £ (min £20) on the day of 19, and continue to pay that amount on the day of each month/quarter until further order in writing from me, and debit my account with you from time to time with such payments.

FROM (NAME AND INITIALS) _____ SIGNATURE: _____ ADDRESS: _____

THE M&G GROUP

FASHION

PREGNANT?

Free maternity catalogues. The following catalogues are available for free. They contain a wide range of maternity wear, from casual to formal, and are suitable for all seasons. They are available for free on request. Write to: **THE GUARDIAN**, 2, Bedford Square, London WC1R 4EJ. Tel: 01-637 7700.

NEW FROM RAGGED HORSE

PADE OUT JACKET & TROUSERS. A wide range of casual wear, including jackets, trousers, and shirts. Write to: **RAGGED HORSE**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

Wet weather gear

ENGLISH MADE. A range of waterproof clothing, including raincoats, trousers, and boots. Write to: **WET WEATHER GEAR**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

STANDARD PONCHO

STANDARD PONCHO. A range of ponchos, including standard and heavy-duty. Write to: **STANDARD PONCHO**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

THREE JAYS & CO

THREE JAYS & CO. A range of clothing, including jackets, trousers, and shirts. Write to: **THREE JAYS & CO**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

MARGED SHOES

A women's co-op making shoes & boots for women. Write to: **MARGED SHOES**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

AFGHAN SLIPPER SOCKS

AFGHAN SLIPPER SOCKS. A range of socks, including Afghan slipper socks. Write to: **AFGHAN SLIPPER SOCKS**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

Schmoocks

Schmoocks. A range of clothing, including jackets, trousers, and shirts. Write to: **Schmoocks**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

THE PATCHWORK SWEATER

THE PATCHWORK SWEATER. A range of sweaters, including patchwork sweaters. Write to: **THE PATCHWORK SWEATER**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

FOR YOUR VALENTINE

FOR YOUR VALENTINE. A range of Valentine's cards. Write to: **FOR YOUR VALENTINE**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

VILLA PANDORA TRATTORIA

VILLA PANDORA TRATTORIA. A restaurant serving Italian food. Write to: **VILLA PANDORA TRATTORIA**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

BE HOT AND PASSIONATE AT Ravi Shanker's Indian Vegetarian Restaurant

BE HOT AND PASSIONATE AT Ravi Shanker's Indian Vegetarian Restaurant. A restaurant serving Indian vegetarian food. Write to: **Ravi Shanker's Indian Vegetarian Restaurant**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

THE DEWANIAM OF FOREST HILL

THE DEWANIAM OF FOREST HILL. A restaurant serving Indian food. Write to: **THE DEWANIAM OF FOREST HILL**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

FLYING JACKET

FLYING JACKET. A range of jackets, including flying jackets. Write to: **FLYING JACKET**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

DEWANIAM LAMBOORI

DEWANIAM LAMBOORI. A restaurant serving Indian food. Write to: **DEWANIAM LAMBOORI**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

A SHEEP JUMPER

A SHEEP JUMPER. A range of jumpers, including sheep jumpers. Write to: **A SHEEP JUMPER**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

ENTERTAINMENTS

ENTERTAINMENTS. A range of entertainment options. Write to: **ENTERTAINMENTS**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

SPECIAL INTERESTS. A range of special interest options. Write to: **SPECIAL INTERESTS**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE

SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE. A centre for arts and crafts. Write to: **SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

4th RESIDENTIAL JAZZ COURSE

4th RESIDENTIAL JAZZ COURSE. A residential jazz course. Write to: **4th RESIDENTIAL JAZZ COURSE**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE SUMMER YOUTH THEATRE, 1985

SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE SUMMER YOUTH THEATRE, 1985. A summer youth theatre. Write to: **SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE SUMMER YOUTH THEATRE, 1985**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

SALE OFFER

SALE OFFER. A sale offer. Write to: **SALE OFFER**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

ART GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

ART GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS. A range of art galleries and exhibitions. Write to: **ART GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

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ROYAL ACADEMY. A range of art galleries and exhibitions. Write to: **ROYAL ACADEMY**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

MASSIVE AUCTION

MASSIVE AUCTION. A massive auction. Write to: **MASSIVE AUCTION**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

IT'S BRILLIANT FUN

IT'S BRILLIANT FUN. A range of entertainment options. Write to: **IT'S BRILLIANT FUN**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

Eric Wagman & Partners

Eric Wagman & Partners. A range of entertainment options. Write to: **Eric Wagman & Partners**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

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FOR THE GREATEST ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS. A range of adventure holiday options. Write to: **FOR THE GREATEST ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

Eric Wagman & Partners

Eric Wagman & Partners. A range of entertainment options. Write to: **Eric Wagman & Partners**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

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FOR THE GREATEST ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS. A range of adventure holiday options. Write to: **FOR THE GREATEST ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

SELF-CATERING UK

LENWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

LENWOOD COUNTRY CLUB. A country club with golf, tennis, and other facilities. Write to: **LENWOOD COUNTRY CLUB**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

THE CREAM OF COTTAGES

THE CREAM OF COTTAGES. A range of cottages. Write to: **THE CREAM OF COTTAGES**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

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CORNISH CRAFTSMEN'S COTTAGES. A range of cottages. Write to: **CORNISH CRAFTSMEN'S COTTAGES**, 1, The Arcade, London EC2A 3EJ. Tel: 01-477 1234.

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On Your Farm.

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Newspapers: 12 15 am Anytime Goes
 15 Country Music Profile: 2 0 News;
 20 News: 12 15 am Sports: 12 15 am
 Twenty Four Hours: 1 20 Network UK;
 45 Country Music Profile: 2 0 News;
 20 News: 12 15 am Sports: 12 15 am
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 9 News about Britain: 3 15 From our
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 Letter from America: 4 15

News: Morning Has Broken.

7 45 Bells; 7 50 Turning Over
 New Leaves.
 8 15 News; Sunday Papers.
 9 15 Sunday.
 9 30 Week's Good Cause: Britain-
 Nepal Medical Trust.
 9 40 News; Sunday Papers.
 9 45 Letter from America by Alistair
 Cooke.
 9 50 Morning Service.
 10 15 The Archers. Omnibus edition.
 11 15 Weekend. Future of public ser-
 vice.
 12 0 Smash of the Day: Educating
 Archie.
 12 30 The Food Programme.
 1 0 The World This Weekend: News.
 2 0 News; Masters' Question Time
 from Norfolk.
 2 30 The Afternoon Play: The Green
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 Alan Berrida.
 3 0 News; Talking About Antiques.
 4 30 The Living World. Signs of life
 under the snow.
 5 0 News; Down Your Way in
 Reading.
 6 0 News.
 6 15 Underground Britain: Devilry in
 the depths.
 6 30 Bookshelf.
 7 0 Father and Son Stories by G. K.
 Chesterton. 7: The Sins of Prince
 Saradine.
 7 30 The Divine Sun. Portrait of
 Impressionist painter Pierre-
 Auguste Renoir.
 8 0 The Black Cockatoo. Ulster emi-
 grant life in Australia at the turn of
 the century.
 8 30 Mad Dogs and Englishmen.
 9 0 News; Masters' India. Book Four:
 Bhowani Junction (5).
 10 0 News.
 10 15 Buddha and the Survival
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 place of man in the world.
 The Letter That Kills: Divorce
 and its aftermath.
 11 0 News.
 11 15 Inside Parliament.
 12 0 News; weather; shipping forecast.
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Manual workers may join teachers in industrial action

Councils face twin campaign for more pay

By John Arlill, Labour Correspondent

The threat of joint industrial action by council manual workers and teachers was raised last night as manual unions broke off pay talks on a 4.75 per cent final offer worth £3.70 a week.

The teaching unions, which are already taking unofficial industrial action in their pay campaign, start negotiations on Monday.

The breakdown has also raised the prospect of local government unions taking on the Government simultaneously over pay, rate-capping, the abolition of metropolitan authorities, and privatisation.

The manual workers' chief negotiator Mr John Edmonds, said the employers "seem to be driving local government

unions into an alliance." The employers' refusal yesterday to give the manual workers a new settlement date away from the start of the negotiating round was seen by unions as the direct work of the Government which, they say, fears having to start the round in April with its own civil servants and the NHS ancillary and white-collar staff.

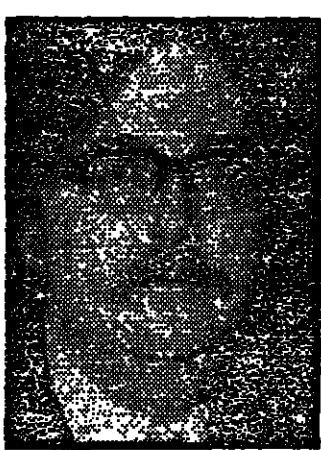
A new date was the unions' main priority and yesterday's cash offer was not seen as sufficient to buy out the claim. Mr Edmonds said members would be "aggravated and disgruntled" by an offer well below the 5.6 per cent awarded this week by arbitrators to the lowest-paid council clerical staff—worth at least 25 a week—and the 6.2 per cent over 15 months offered to council building workers.

The manual unions were promised special pay treatment last year but ended up with the lowest local government settlement.

The employers said yesterday that money being sought by the unions would lead to the destruction of large parts of the service and large-scale redundancies.

The unions will report the breakdown of talks to their executives, who are likely to consult the 900,000 members involved.

An alliance between teaching and manual unions might be difficult—they have clashed at national level over pay policy—but, significantly, a large proportion of the manual workers are dinner ladies, school cleaners, and caretakers.



Mr John Edmonds—chief negotiator for manual workers.

Anger at siege coverage

Police negotiations with a south London siege gunman were almost wrecked yesterday by a TV news bulletin. Senior officers were understood to be angry about a Thames News report that police were prepared to storm the flat in Glenelg Road, Streatham, where the man is held up.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said the man, who police want to question over an armed robbery in which a police dog was killed, had watched the report

A social services spokesman said that about 30 people unable to return to their homes because of the siege would be put up in local hotels. "It's a fairly grim situation and they are having to make do the best they can."

A Thames TV spokesman said: "Our lunchtime news report did not say, nor did it infer, that the police were about to storm the besieged man. If the besieged man, or the police, misunderstood, then that is unfortunate."

Labour leaders put the blame on Thatcher

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent

Labour Party leaders yesterday turned on the Prime Minister with strong accusations that she was personally blocking a settlement of the miners' strike.

After Mrs Thatcher's refusal to contemplate what she called a "judicial" end to the dispute, Mr Neil Kinnock accused her of vindictiveness in trying to defeat the miners, and Mr Gerald Kaufman, shadow home secretary, accused her of engaging in a spiteful campaign.

They argued that the NUM and the coal board both wanted negotiations, and it was only Mrs Thatcher's intervention, principally in her television interview on Thursday night, which was souring the atmosphere for negotiations. Mr Kinnock said that she was now isolated in her desire to inflict a dreadful humiliation on the miners.

Sensing a political opportunity such as has been rarely offered him in the last few weeks of the strike, the opposition leader said: "I think it would be very foolish if the Conservative Cabinet and the Conservative Party allowed her to get away with that because it would be an act of self-destruction, like Samson pulling in the pillars of the temple."

Speaking in Gloucester, he said the country was now aware of Mrs Thatcher's role in blocking a possible settlement. Mr Kaufman, speaking in his Manchester constituency, said that the nation was angered by the spite and vindictiveness coming from Downing Street.

The government stance, however, remained firm throughout the day. Mrs Thatcher's comments on Thursday, when she insisted that an agreement to some pit closures on economic grounds had to be accepted by the NUM before negotiations, effectively left ministers and government spokesmen with nothing else to say.

It is clear that ministers will watch any offer by the coal board very carefully, and there seems little doubt that Mrs Thatcher is in no mood to allow a deal to go through which would contravene the principles she had laid out so publicly.

Mr Kinnock said he believed that without her intervention negotiations could proceed to end the strike, which was in "its final stages". Mr Kaufman said: "Mrs Thatcher's dictatorial approach is damaging the prospects of a settlement."

Labour fury over Mrs Thatcher's remarks has largely obscured the divisions in the party about tactics on the strike, which were so evident only a few days ago. Last night Mr Eric Heffer, who has been a prominent critic of Mr Kinnock's strategy, issued a statement which took up the same theme as his leader.

"The entire Labour Party, through its national executive committee meeting on Wednesday, has shown that it is united in its support for the miners and in support of their call that negotiations should resume immediately. I trust the Prime Minister will show the compromise she referred to when she quoted the prayer of peace of St Francis of Assisi," he said.

Sale threatens cheap coaches

By Geoff Andrews, Transport Correspondent

The days of cheap express motorway coaches could be over within the next year if the Government goes ahead with plans to sell National Express, which has dominated the market in recent years and led the field in cut-price competition.

With about 65 per cent of the motorway coach business, National Express has led the rapid growth of services in the past three years, dictating prices that most private operators have been unable to match, and still make a profit, because it uses the network of facilities owned by its parent company, National Bus.

As a result, although

National Express made a £3.7 million operating profit in the last financial year it lost £391,000 when full costs were allocated.

A strong hint that the Government intends to sell the express coach services in the near future was given in a press notice issued by the Department of Transport to accompany the public expenditure white paper published earlier this week.

Detailing the external financing limits of the nationalised industries, the notice explained that the NBC limit for this year would be cut from the present £84.5 million to £36 million in the 1985-6 financial year. This, the notice added, "reflects the potential for

some parts of NBC to be sold before the main programme of privatisation."

NBC had anticipated a cut of about £23 million in the limit to account for the planned reductions in support for public transport. The cut made up from the sale of some of its parts, can only mean that something as substantial as the express services, and perhaps National Holidays, its tour marketing arm, will be put on the market sooner than anticipated.

An alternative method of raising such a large sum by selling large amounts of NBC property seems unlikely because of the depressing effect that this would have on the

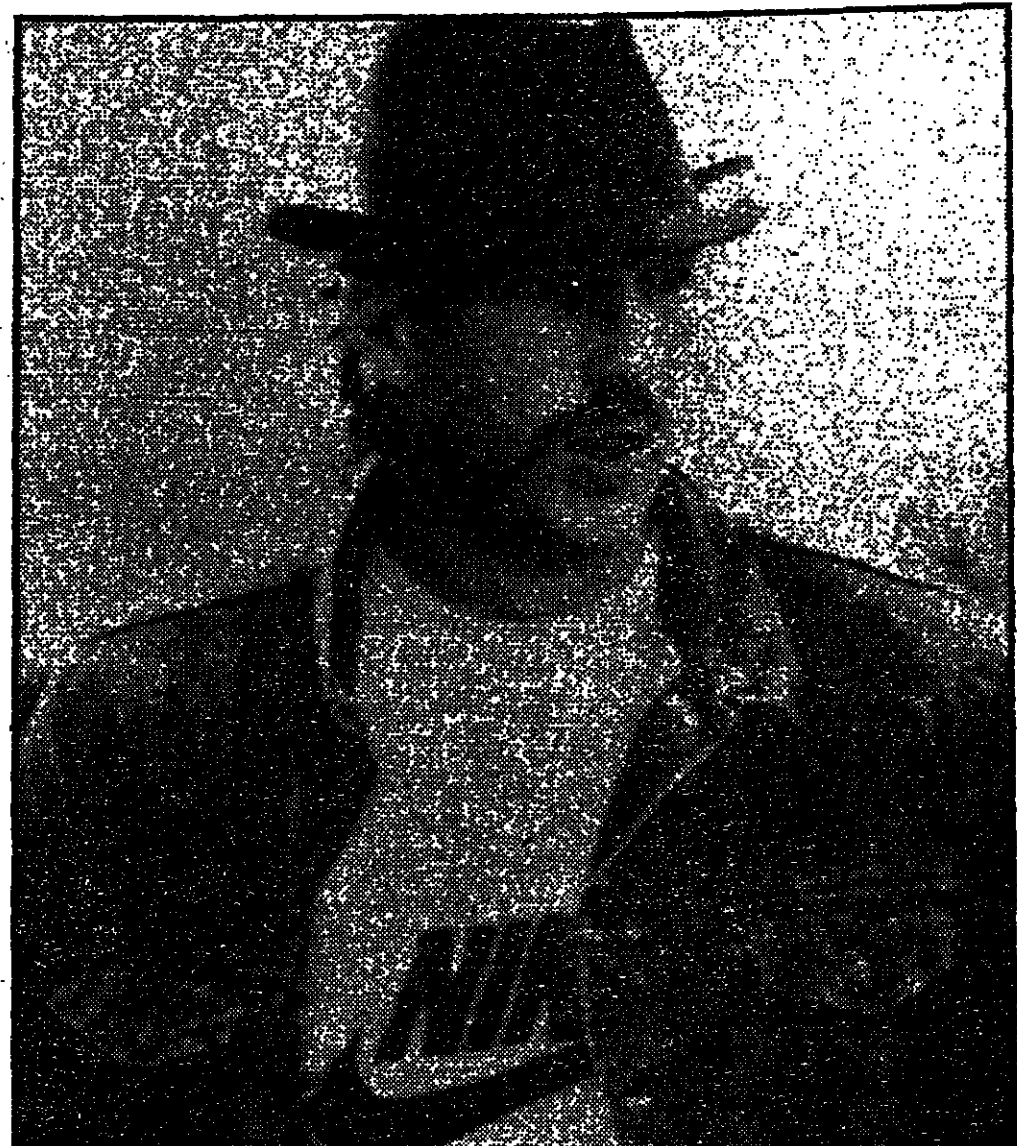
attractiveness of the 50 component companies of NBC, running local services, which will be put up for sale after deregulation of the industry, scheduled for 1988.

In December, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, announced in a written Commons answer that he was delaying the sale of the component parts of National Holidays until the deregulation of local services had been given a chance to settle down. But this need not apply to coach services, which have been deregulated since 1981, the more which stimulated the rapid growth of NBC's motorway coach services.

An additional element in favour of an early disposal of

NBC's coaching operation is the effect that the inevitable rise in prices would have on British coach travel. InterCity has been given a target of 5 per cent profitability by 1988. This task is proving almost impossible when coaches can often deliver passengers in about the same time but at a fraction of the cost.

Return fares on all the main coach routes throughout Britain are often little more than half the price of the cheapest "saver" fares on the railways. To travel from London to Aberdeen by coach costs £26 compared with £47 by train. Manchester costs £10 (£13) Chester £8.50 (£13) Brighton £4.25 (£5.60); and Plymouth £12 (£24).



Ian Botham, the England and Somerset cricket all-rounder, arriving at Scunthorpe's soccer ground yesterday. He has said he will plead guilty in a magistrate's court to possessing cannabis.

Sinclair holds back on C5 expansion

By Maggie Brown

Sir Clive Sinclair has deferred a decision on whether to invest up to £2 million in a second production line for his £399 electric three-wheeler, the C5.

The decision inevitably raises doubts about whether the Sinclair vehicle is attracting buyers. But Sinclair Vehicles, the offshoot company making the C5, blames an overtime ban by the 1,700 workers at the Hockley, Merthyr Tydfil, washing machine works, where the vehicles are assembled on a special line.

A one-day strike called for next Tuesday has led to the cancellation of a visit by the Prince and Princess of Wales to the plant.

Sinclair refused yesterday to

orders received since the three-wheeler was launched. A spokesman said: "Sales are going extremely well, and are more than on target." The company was said to have received orders for more than 1,000 vehicles during the launch week.

Sinclair plans to produce some 100,000 C5 vehicles at Merthyr this year, building up from the first production line, employing 100 people, which can make about 1,000 a week. The AUEW works convenor at the plant, Mr William Bish, said that the deferred investment in special machine tools was unlikely to have any immediate effect, as problems with the first production line were still being solved.

The Hoover workers have been offered a 4 per cent per cent rise, but want 7 per cent.

How men fall for the Iron Lady

Continued from page one

wine, will lunge passionately at the Prime Minister and that she can handle them as easily as if they were mere members of her Cabinet.

Mr Fairbairn, whose public life has been colourful and varied and whose ministerial career ended when he resigned as Solicitor-General for Scotland in 1982, has done it once more, ensuring that the Prime Minister will never seem quite the same again. Nor, of course, will the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

There really was no consolation in the Chequers bunker last night. In Channel 4's profile, Mr Livingstone was asked for his impressions. He described Mrs Thatcher as a worthy opponent, capable of changing hearts and minds and shifting political opinion. "I think I admire the determination," he said. The imposition of her personality on events? "That I find very admirable." It must have seemed like the final insult.

Blacks are promised more say

Continued from page one

In policy, with the Government finally admitting in public that at least some blacks belong in South Africa itself and not in the homelands.

Mr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, leader of the liberal opposition Progressive Federal Party, said it could be the start of a meaningful debate between whites and blacks.

But the Nobel peace prize winner, Bishop Desmond Tutu, told reporters in the Hague: "We will not be satisfied with the crumbs of concessions the white man throws at us. The country is ours." He said that the forum would be "nonsense, a totally toothless dog meant only to serve within the structure of apartheid."

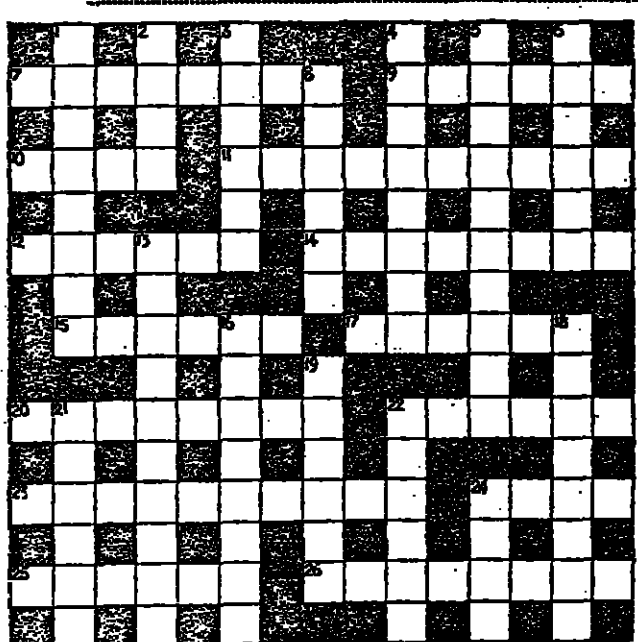
The United Democratic Front, the main multi-racial opposition alliance, insisted that Mr Botha was still trying to perpetuate white domination by continuing the homeland system. "This solution is completely unacceptable," its publicity secretary, Mosiuoa Lokoto, said.

THE GUARDIAN PRIZE PUZZLE 17,144

CUSTOS

A £20 cash prize will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solution opened, and three book tokens, each of £10, for the next three. Send your entry to Guardian Crossword No. 17,144, The Guardian, 164 Deansgate, Manchester M60 2RR, to arrive not later than first post on Thursday next week. Solution and winners' names in The Guardian on Monday, February 4.

Name _____ Address _____



- ACROSS**
- Card-game gets embarrassed PC in hole (8).
 - Embedded in lake, needing help (6).
 - Related to king, showing mental twist (4).
 - Pest exterminator, somewhat restricting cat getting about (3-7).
 - It's the most congenial very near to where I live (4, 2, 2, 6).
 - English youngsters around the North are fast runners (6).
 - Drive home about fifty, a short distance (6).
 - Makes a profit, as many a red does (4, 2, 6).
 - Very large doctor, retired French one, crazy (10).
- DOWN**
- Derision and anger about post detectives tripping up (8).
 - Caught the man in a snare and accepted the blame (4, 3, 2).
 - Slalom is unusual in Cyprus (8).
 - Choose to have Reagan in charge, like a modern computer (10).
 - Undertaking to eschew tricks is essential in pool (6).
 - Ben worried about cat getting put down (6).
 - Given a new form, art must end improved (10).
 - Erased about a page, getting exhausted (8).
 - Country-dances old coppers have, with weeds all round (8).
 - Open up world organisation's summit (6).
 - Snares the target that fire-fighting's so 'ard' (6).
 - 24 Stretched, needing support, retreated (6, 4).

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 17,143

ACROSS
1. BATTLESHIP
2. LAGOON
3. KING
4. MIND
5. PEST
6. NORTH
7. FIFTY
8. PROFIT
9. DOCTOR
10. FRENCH

DOWN
1. DERISION
2. CAUGHT
3. SLALOM
4. REAGAN
5. UNDERTAKING
6. BEN
7. GIVEN
8. ERASED
9. COUNTRY-DANCES
10. OPEN
11. SNARES
12. 24

Lord Lane's radical plan

Continued from page one

providing guidance to lower courts for future cases. Some officials yesterday suggested that the Lord Chief Justice was opposed to this because it was "too wishy-washy".

Judges appear to be opposed to giving the prosecution the right of appeal in any form. When they have been asked for their views at the seminars run by the Judicial Studies Board, they have always voted against the idea.

The one Law Lord, Lord Scarman, and three former judges, Lord Simon, Denning and Edmund-Davies, who spoke

in the Lords on Thursday all opposed the idea. Australia and Canada both give the prosecution the right of appeal against sentence. One reason it is opposed in Britain is the fear that it will lead to heavier sentencing. British judges are already considerably more severe than those in most other states.

The Lord Chief Justice has publicly supported the idea of shorter sentences for offenders but he has made it clear that there should be no reduction in sentences for rape or drug convictions and has said that reckless driving charges should receive heavier sentences.

Plan for £5m extra famine aid

By Alan Travis

A further £5 million of overseas aid for African famine victims and for refugees relief was announced by the Government yesterday in response to appeals from international relief agencies.

Mr Timothy Raison, the Minister for Overseas Development, said in a written Commons answer that the package included £2 million for the international committee of the Red Cross Africa appeal, which would be used in Ethiopia and the Sudan. A feeding centre at Mekele in Ethiopia is to be expanded and a new centre opened at Maichew.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is also to receive £2 million. The remaining £1 million is to be used by the League of Red Cross and Crescent Societies for its general African appeal covering 17 countries.

Stabbed PC on dialysis

Police Constable George Hammond, who was stabbed in the stomach by a youth in south London on Wednesday, remains "stable but critical" in King's College hospital, London, where surgeons have fought to save his life. He is now on dialysis because of kidney failure.

Peter Rankin, said PC Hammond, aged 47, had developed kidney failure but this was "to be expected in view of the injuries he sustained." The stabbing would have caused an enormous trauma, affecting various parts of the body. PC Hammond was attacked when he tried to arrest a youth who had stolen £6 from a sweet shop in East Dulwich.

THE WEATHER

Sun and showers

A DEPRESSION over N France will move E and allow a ridge of high pressure to build over W districts.

London SE, East E and E England, E and E Scotland. Dry with sun periods. Wind NW, mainly light. Max temp 1-3°C (34-37°F).

W Midlands, Cheshire, Lancs, SW England, Wales. Dry with sun periods. Wind NW, mainly light. Max temp 2-4°C (36-39°F).

SW England, Lake District, NW Wales, SW Scotland. Dry with sun periods. Wind NW, mainly light. Max temp 2-4°C (36-39°F).

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SW England, Lake District, NW Wales, SW Scotland. Dry with sun periods. Wind NW, mainly light. Max temp 2-4°C (36-39°F).

AROUND THE WORLD

London time reports

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
Amsterdam	11	12	100	1015
Antwerp	11	12	100	1015
Birmingham	11	12	100	1015
Bombay	28	12	100	1015
Buenos Aires	18	12	100	1015
Calcutta	28	12	100	1015
Canton	18	12	100	1015
Cebu	28	12	100	1015
Colon	28	12	100	1015
Hankow	18	12	100	1015
Hong Kong	28	12	100	1015
Kobe	18	12	100	1015
London	11	12	100	1015
Lyons	11	12	100	1015
Manila	28	12	100	1015
Medan	28	12	100	1015
Osaka	18	12	100	1015
Paris	11	12	100	1015
Perth	18	12	100	1015
Rangoon	28	12	100	1015
San Francisco	18	12	100	1015
Singapore	28	12	100	1015
Sourabaya	28	12	100	1015
Tokyo	18	12	100	1015
Yokohama	18	12	100	1015

AROUND BRITAIN

Reports for the 24 hours ending 6 pm

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
Amsterdam	11	12	100	1015
Antwerp	11	12	100	1015
Birmingham	11	12	100	1015
Bombay	28	12	100	1015
Buenos Aires	18	12	100	1015
Calcutta	28	12	100	1015
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Singapore	28	12	100	1015
Sourabaya	28	12	100	1015
Tokyo	18	12	100	1015
Yokohama	18	12	100	1015

SNOW REPORTS

Deaths (in State)

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
Amsterdam	11	12	100	1015
Antwerp	11	12	100	1015
Birmingham	11	12	100	1015
Bombay	28	12	100	1015
Buenos Aires	18	12	100	1015
Calcutta	28	12	100	1015
Canton	18	12	100	1015
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Yokohama	18	12	100	1015

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